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More cops urged in schools

Positive police presence needed to enhance security, report says

A heightened police presence in school buildings, new procedures for dealing with peer sexual assault, and dozens of new staff to work with marginalized youth — these are just a few of the recommendations made by a school board panel in response to January's Falconer Report.

The recommendations, scheduled

for release this morning, call for enhanced "positive police interactions with students in school buildings" and a plan to establish a model to "further engage" Toronto police in our schools.

The report stops short of saying uniformed officers should be patrolling hallways. Instead, police will be providing more resources to schools and working to "strengthen the security around the school," said trustee Cathy Dandy.

"I can assure you, it is not at all the



unflattering picture in earlier report

» Released in January, lawyer Julian Falconer's 1,000-page report painted an unflattering picture of life at many Toronto high schools; drugs, guns, gangs, sexual aggression, and a financially impotent board that can't find funding to solve the problems.

intent to turn our schools into police buildings. We have to deal with the reality," she said. "We're not going to pretend that knives and guns aren't in our schools. We know they're there. We want to take it seriously."

The report must still be approved

by the full board.

The board formed a Leadership Action Team to conduct a comprehensive analysis of issues addressed in the Falconer Report. The team identified six major themes that emerged from the Falconer Re-

port: Equity; Supports for Marginalized and Vulnerable Youth; Partnerships and Integrated Services; Gender-based Harassment and Violence; Safety and the Culture of Silence; and identified action plans for each.

"Truthfully, I wasn't that impressed by this report. It didn't seem to me to have the spunk that the Falconer Report had. I thought it was more same-old, same-old," said trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

» celeb buzz p.38

wedding

Ashlee marries rocker Pete Wentz

» yourhealth inside

Working out with allergies



» workology p.24

Model eyes stint with Playboy

High 16°
Low 5°
WEATHER P. 37



CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Long weekend ends with bang

People watch Victoria Day fireworks at Ashbridge's Bay last night. The heavy clouds that loomed over the city for days lifted just in time as hundreds of Torontonians descended on the city's official fireworks venues — Ashbridge's Bay and Ontario Place. Canada's Wonderland hosted a display Sunday.

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toronto

First Paul Trotter and Arlene Levin had their advertising sign spirited away by the city. Then they were told it would cost \$100 to get it back. Now they find out their store isn't wide enough to allow a sign. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



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HD 519 **ROGERS**

inside metro

world

china mourns
Country stops for three minutes to remember quake victims. » 8

workology

bright minds

Young scientists display accomplishments. » 26

celebritybuzz

demanding diva?

Reports say Scarlett Johansson made excessive demands in Cannes. » 39

in tomorrow's metro

music notes

Sarah Slean, who plays in Toronto later this week, talks about her new album *The Baroness*.

Blaze murder-suicide

Police find three bodies after weekend fire

After three days of searching, a third body was discovered in the burned-out remains of an apartment on Green Belt Drive yesterday, where a "sus-

piciously fast" three-alarm fire had spread Saturday evening, gutting two apartments.

Police confirmed yesterday the fire is part of a double-murder suicide. As officials search for a motive, autopsies on all three bodies — a 41-year-old male, his 46-year-old

wife and 70-year-old mother-in-law — will be conducted this week.

Initially, a three-year-old boy found at the scene Saturday night was believed to hold the key to the events that killed his parents and grandmother.

Neighbour Raouf Bayouk

found the distraught child with a note in his hand. The note led investigators to a recorded message in a car belonging to Majid Israr Ahmad, 41. But the tape turned out to be a dead end.

Police have determined an accelerant was used to start the fire. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Jane Doe seeking justice

Almost 10 years after her monumental victory against the Toronto police, Jane Doe will stand before its board this week, cap in hand, she says, to plead yet again for justice.

Doe claims after nearly a decade of trying to work with police and make changes to the way it handles rape and views women, the force has closed off communication. Out of nowhere, she said, last November the police services board shut down a steering committee, set up to combat the "systemic sexism" a judge ruled was behind the 1980s police investigation into a serial rapist. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

struggle

» After a 12-year struggle to have her day in court, Doe successfully sued the Toronto police in 1998, and a judge ruled the police discriminated against women, using them as "human bait" to catch the "balcony rapist" who attacked Doe in 1986.

news

In Brief

» **SPEEDING** A Barrie-area teenager has been stripped of his driving privileges after a car was seen speeding at 239 km/h in an 80 km/h zone. A 17-year-old youth from Springwater Township is charged with street racing, careless driving and failure to surrender his licence. Police laid 163 street racing charges during the OPP's long weekend blitz and seized as many cars, mostly operated by young men in their early 20s or late teens.

» **SEARCH** Police spent most of the weekend at a lake in Richmond Hill searching for two men who were presumed dead after their canoe capsized early Sunday morning. It appeared the victims, Alon Kulik, 19, and Daniel Montazernezhad, 21, had been drinking and ignored warnings not to go out on the cold waters in the wee hours of the morning.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Victoria Day 21-gun salute



Toros Djerdjejan, a.k.a. Mr. Canada, stands at attention at yesterday's 21-gun salute for Victoria Day at Queen's Park.

LUCKY OLSEN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Lot of catch-up, minister admits

In the past, I've been impatient to grill newly appointed provincial transport ministers — by asking when their government was going to begin properly funding transit. After a long decline that spanned Liberal, NDP and (especially) Conservative regimes, the

current crowd of Liberals under Dalton McGuinty has finally reversed the trend.

So, although St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley was named to lead Ontario's ministry of transportation almost seven months ago, I haven't been in the same rush to question him.

Bradley's predecessors helped create Metrolinx, the body now charged with re-

designing the GTA transport network. How are things going between his ministry and the new, ambitious organization?

Bradley says, "I think that relationship is good. We have confidence in the people who are there," noting some previously worked for the province.

He says "they recognize how important it is a) to move extensively, and b) to move quickly to solve what is a major challenge in terms of public transit."

Metrolinx is expected to deliver its proposed Regional Transportation Plan to Queen's Park later this year — perhaps not soon enough for GTA commuters stuck in very crowded trains

and buses. Despite expected fireworks among the municipal politicians who oversee Metrolinx, Bradley notes that, so far, all parties are working well together.

Acknowledging that rising gas prices will push more drivers to transit, and that "there's a lot of catch-up," the minister vows, "We will move as quickly as humanly possible."

He points out Ontario has already agreed to preliminary requests from Metrolinx, worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

However, Bradley concedes, "Even if you allocate the funds — and we're certainly prepared to allocate those funds ... physically getting everything done is a challenge."

But can Ontario afford the billions promised for transit projects if the economy weakens? The transport minister replies, "We have planned well into the future. When you're a government, you have to look at every eventuality that exists. You can't always anticipate

that your revenues are going to be what they may have been in the past, so you have to build in some capacity within that budgetary process to ensure that you have that funding — and this government has tried to build that capacity in."

Is the province serious about building new transit lines, as opposed to its traditional preference for road construction? Bradley says this fiscal year Ontario will

spend "about 2.1 billion (dollars) for highways and, all in, about two billion for transit — so that's very close (to half and half)." He adds, "In the past we would have seen something in the neighbourhood of 2-to-1 or 3-to-1 being spent on highways (compared to transit)."

Are the Liberals doing enough to ease congestion and increase mobility? What would you tell the transport minister?

Ed Drass has been covering transportation issues in Toronto since 1998. He has a degree in urban studies from York University and regularly rides transit in the GTA and elsewhere.



IN TRANSIT
ED DRASS
transit@eddrass.com

«Even if you allocate the funds ... physically getting everything done is a challenge.»

MPP Jim Bradley



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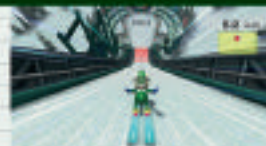
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Teen car thieves have long been a problem in Winnipeg, but lately they've been smashing into police on purpose. Police cars have been rammed four times in the past month alone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No leads yet in tourist death

Canadian fatally shot in Mexican beach resort

Mexican police say they are protecting the girlfriend of a Canadian tourist who was killed in Mexico's Cabo San Lucas beach resort.

Police say 29-year-old Bouabal Bounthavorn was fatally shot late Thursday after he opened the door of his room at the Hotel Riu and argued briefly with an unknown man.

His girlfriend, 24-year-old Masha Heikali, was shot in one foot and treated at a local hospital.



deaths in Mexico

» Domenic and Nancy Ianiero of Woodbridge were found with their throats slit in February 2006 at a resort.
» In January 2007, Adam DePrisco, 19, also of Woodbridge, was killed outside an Acapulco nightclub.

State police Cmdr. Enrique Wuilar said authorities have no leads or motive in the

killing.

They have set up roadblocks and are monitoring

the airport for the killer, described as a tall, thin, dark-skinned man.

A department official said consular assistance was being provided to the family and consular officials were in contact with authorities investigating the death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Watchdog nudged out of contracts

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his cabinet have exempted contracts with Parliament and Canada's spy agency from oversight by a new ombudsman's post that was central to the 2006 Conservative election campaign.

The government slipped the exemptions through last week in regulations that empower the contract procurement ombudsman under the Accountability Act.

Opposition MPs were taken by surprise at the exemptions, saying they were unaware the Senate, the House of Commons and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service would be excluded from the ombudsman's statutory duty to review contracts for "fairness, openness and transparency."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crash turns up noise over headphones

The death of a 23-year-old student killed when a helicopter crash-landed on him in the middle of the street is raising questions about how aware people are of their surroundings when outside listening to portable audio devices — such as iPods and MP3 players.

Isaiah Otieno, from Kenya, was crossing a street in Cranbrook, B.C., last week when a helicopter struggling to stay airborne suddenly dropped on top of him.

At the time, there were reports Otieno was wearing ear or headphones and may not have heard the downward spiralling chopper.

When Kevin Guest, a staff

the law

» While there are no laws in Canada dealing with the use of headphones while walking, it's illegal to wear them while riding a bicycle in both British Columbia and Quebec.

sergeant with the Toronto Police, gives streetproofing tips to students, he reminds them to stay alert while wearing earphones.

"If you are going to wear an iPod or headphones or something like that, you keep the level low enough so you can still hear ambient noise," Guest said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MacKay A whole new defence role



Niagara Thunder's Shawn Wilson runs into Nova Scotia Keltics' outside centre, Defence Minister Peter MacKay, right, as teammate Greg Forrest looks on during a Rugby Canada Super League game yesterday in Brantford, Ont. Rugby Canada Super League is the highest level of club rugby in the country, featuring regional teams drawn from provincial clubs.

AARON WILDT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

news In Brief

» **TAX** Personal and business tax cuts introduced last October are putting money in people's pockets, says Finance Minister Jim Flaherty. The finance

minister said tax rebates are averaging \$1,430 per individual, a 14 per cent increase from last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian weds Queen's grandson

The eldest grandson of the Queen married his Canadian fiancée Saturday in a private ceremony at Windsor Castle.

Peter Phillips and Autumn

Kelly wed at the castle's 15th-century St. George's Chapel in front of 300 guests including the Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, and

Phillips' mother, Princess Anne. Also on hand was Prince Harry and his girlfriend Chelsy Davy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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the **Bay**

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world



Japan's Tourism Ministry yesterday named Hello Kitty, the country's ambassador of cute, as its choice to represent it in China and Hong Kong, two places where she is wildly popular with kids and young women.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bomb tactics 'cowardice'

Children recruited by Taliban as suicide bombers

Not much comes as a shock to soldiers, but even for men who may have seen it all, the suicide bombing involving a young Afghan boy has taken the already bitter war in this country to a whole new level of savagery.

It was the utter cruelty of the attack Friday that wounded two Canadians and took the life of an Afghan soldier on patrol in Zhari district that has made even the most weather-beaten, battle-hardened faces blanch.

Afghan police initially

placed his age at between 10 and 12 years, but over the weekend one official in the troubled district said the child may have been 13 years old.

What investigators were trying to determine as they

soldiers killed

» Two NATO soldiers were killed in two separate incidents in southern Afghanistan yesterday, the alliance said in a statement.

sifted through the evidence over the weekend was if the boy's bomb vest was remotely activated by a militant somewhere nearby, timed to go off — or whether the child flipped the switch himself.

"It's cowardice," snarled Sapper Chris Greenaway, 21, a member of the 1st Combat Engineering Regiment based in Edmonton. "To recruit children is pure and utter cowardice."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Students of Longxiang High School observe a three-minute silence for quake victims yesterday in Rui'an, China. China began a three-day mourning yesterday for the victims of the quake.

ZHUANG YINGCHANG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shock warning rattles China

A government warning of a major aftershock sent thousands of panicked survivors running into the darkened streets last night following an unprecedented display of mourning for more than 34,000 people killed in a powerful earthquake one week ago.

In shattered Sichuan province, quake-weary residents carried pillows, blankets and chairs from homes

death toll

» China's Cabinet said the confirmed death toll rose to 34,073, although it is expected to climb. Another 5,260 remained buried in Sichuan, the provincial government said. Almost 250,000 are injured.

into the open or slept in cars after a statement from the National Seismology Bureau

was read on television warning that there was a "rather great" chance of an aftershock measuring magnitude 6 to 7. Such jolts could cause major damage.

The alarm came a few hours after China's more than one billion people paused for three minutes of mourning — an observance that previously only honoured the death of a top Chinese leader.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrats pushing for 'Dream Team'

There's nothing quite like a happy ending — or at least what seems to pass for one.

backing

» Senator Robert Byrd, a former member of the Ku Klux Klan and a one-time opponent of civil rights legislation, is endorsing Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The idea of a dream team is gaining ground again, now that Obama

is close to locking up the nomination. The latest polls say about 60 per cent support it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

»news In Brief

» **SOUTH AFRICA** Clashes pitting the poorest of the poor against one another have killed 22 people in South Africa and underscored bitter frustration with the government's failure to deliver enough jobs, housing and schools. Police

brought in reinforcements as violence hopped from slum to slum in scenes reminiscent of some of the bloodiest days of apartheid, with most of the victims foreigners in squatter camps.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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business

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Scotia Capital's Camilla Sutton, who correctly predicted the loonie would hit \$1.10 last November, says the loonie will end 2008 at \$1.01, and reach \$1.06 late next year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **PITCH** Premier Dalton McGuinty pitched investment opportunities to a business crowd in London, England, yesterday, stressing what he considered Ontario's strengths — the birthplace of

RIM's BlackBerry; a centre for biotechnology and medical research; and the province with the highest percentage of people with post-secondary degrees in the western world. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Sears stores open despite warnings

Province says no exemption under Holidays Act

At least 10 Sears Canada stores in Ontario opened their doors to the public yesterday, even though the provincial government warned the company it would be against the law to do so on Victoria Day.

Canada's second-largest department store chain had said it planned to hold special "private by-invitation-only" charity events, which it believed would be legal as an

no complaints?

» Sears Canada spokesman Vincent Power said he wasn't aware of any stores that were fined by police or any complaints being filed.

exemption under the province's Retail Business Holidays Act. But the provincial government said that wasn't a valid exemption and the only stores that could open legally were those in designated tourist areas.

Stores in Belleville, Brockville, Cobourg, Corn-

wall, Sarnia, St. Catharines, Windsor and some in the Toronto area were open for business. Some stores turned away customers that didn't have special invitations handed out during the week.

Fines for violating the retail act could range between \$500 up to \$50,000 but Greg Dennis, a spokesman for the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, said it was completely up to the police to act on complaints from the public. He said the government would not get involved in enforcing the legislation. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

private gusher

Man cashes in on backyard oil well

CRUDE An Indiana man is capitalizing on high crude oil prices with his own oil well in his backyard that produces three barrels of oil a day. Greg Losh says it comes from the Trenton oil field that fuelled growth in east-central Indiana more than a century ago.

He says it costs \$100,000 US to drill an oil well, but at today's prices, it's worth it. Losh expects to drill four more wells on his property in the town of Selma, about 90 kilometres northeast of Indianapolis.

The oil is stored in a tank and transported to Ohio for sale. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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City Exploration

If you're looking for adventure during your vacation, London has plenty to offer. To tell you the best places to explore and discover the real heart of London, two locals, Lester and Lottie share their tips with you.

Lester

The best thing about living in London is that there are so many things to see and do. I'm always having new adventures in and around the city. For first timers, I recommend starting your journey at the London Eye. This observation wheel is over 400 feet tall (which is around 64 red telephone boxes high!) and has amazing views of the city; apparently you can see around 30 miles across London on a clear day.

After the London Eye, I suggest taking a ride on the River Thames. You can either enjoy the London Eye River Cruise, a circular trip which takes around 40 minutes, or you can join a City Cruise at one of the river piers. City Cruises are a fantastic way to explore London; buy a Red Rover ticket and you'll be able to hop on and hop off at whichever stop suits you. The same is true of the Big Bus Tours, which follow a route around London passing most of the main attractions.

If you want to learn about London's history and heritage, a great place to start is in Sutton, South London. Made up of several smaller towns, such as Carshalton, Cheam and St Helier, the area has historic sites dating back to the Romans as well as historic buildings from Tudor and Victorian times.

A great tip, to make some savings for your vacation, is to visit Thomas Cook foreign exchange branches in London. You can receive great rates and £100 worth of savings at a number of top London attractions, like 25% off the London Eye River

Cruise. Plus, with a voucher you can download from visitlondon.com your currency is commission-free!

In the evening, the fun doesn't have to stop. If you love the theater, head over to the West End to catch one of London's famous musicals. The atmosphere around Covent Garden and Soho is always buzzing, and grabbing a bite to eat is easy with many great value pre-theater dinner options available. There's lots of choice with the large number of plays and musicals showing in London. The latest show to open is 'Jersey Boys', based on the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. It's been a huge hit on Broadway and I'm sure it will be a massive success here too!

I'm always having
new adventures in and
around the city

Lottie

You might be surprised to learn that London has several villages within the city itself. I live in Kingston-Upon-Thames a his-



Portobello Road

toric market town which still has weekly markets selling fish, fruit and vegetables as well as fashion. I don't live far from an amusement park, Chessington World of Adventures, which my grandchildren love to visit when they come to stay.

It's not only my local market I like to visit, with so many choices in London, I like to get round to all of them for a good rummage. For vintage clothes and antiques, I recommend Portobello Market, you might even see some celebrities looking for the next trends. One of the oldest street markets in London is Petticoat Lane in East London which has been running for over 400 years! Originally selling French lace and petticoats, (hence the name of the street) it now sells clothes, toys and electrical goods.

For a lovely day out, the arts and crafts market at Merton Abbey Mills in South Wimbledon is really enjoyable. With free music concerts at the bandstand and lots of restaurants and pubs in the area to choose from, you may well start to develop a taste for London village life.

After discovering some bargains in the capital's markets, you will have developed quite an appetite. With food from around the world, your taste buds will be tingling with all the choice. A must for any fan of Indian / Bangladeshi cuisine is to head to Brick Lane, East London, to check out the collection of South Asian restaurants. Pub food has been making a comeback over the last couple of years across London and there's never been a better time to try

With food from
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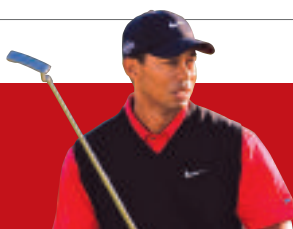
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sports



World No. 1 Tiger Woods, left, plans to play in this year's Buick Open in Michigan beginning June 26, marking his return from left knee surgery he underwent in mid-April.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada looks ahead to 2010

Men's hockey team not panicking after OT loss

Let the countdown to the Games begin.

The dry run ended in disappointing fashion with Canada's loss in the gold medal final at the IIHF World Championship, but there's plenty to be taken from here and applied to preparation for the Olympic hockey tournament in Vancouver two years down the road.

In the wake of Sunday's 5-4 overtime loss to Russia, Canadian coach Ken Hitchcock was asked by a foreign reporter if the defeat signalled a changing of the guard in interna-

tional hockey.

"No," Hitchcock replied flatly, pausing for effect. "Because we've got good players. We've got good players on the horizon."

"We all know that the Olympics are the measuring stick. We all know that. If you're talking about world power, you're talking about supremacy in hockey, you talk about the Olympics."

To that end, this Canadian team did the Olympic squad a favour by regaining top spot in the world rank-

ing. As top seed, Canada will play the U.S., Switzerland and last-place qualifier in the early part of the 2010 Games — meaning it won't face a power like Russia, Sweden or the Czech Republic before the quarter-finals.

That will be helpful when one of the biggest international hockey tournaments ever held in this country gets underway.

It's sure to be an exciting event. There was no shortage of skill at this world championship but the Russians will

« We all know that the Olympics are the measuring stick. We all know that. If you're talking about world power, you're talking about supremacy in hockey, you talk about the Olympics. »

Ken Hitchcock

undoubtedly have the likes of Evgeni Malkin and Pavel Datsyuk with them at the Olympics. It's hard to imagine Sidney Crosby, Joe Thornton and Vincent Lecavalier not wearing the Maple Leaf in Vancouver and none of those guys played at this world championship.

"When you get it together in the Olympics and everyone's there, that's the measuring stick," said Hitchcock.

Even with Sunday's loss, it's clear Canada is in the midst of a renaissance at this event. A Canadian team has played in five of the last six gold medal games and a young team led by Crosby in 2006 fell one goal short of making it 6-for-6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Red Wings soar back to Cup final

NHL points leaders to face Penguins

RED WINGS 4 STARS 1

Dominant in the regular season, superb again in the post-season, the Detroit Red Wings are headed back to the Stanley Cup final.

With gusto, too.

Just when the Red Wings lost consecutive games and were starting to look vulnerable, they bounced back strong in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals, getting first-period goals from Kris Draper, Pavel Datsyuk and

Dallas Drake on their way to knocking out the Dallas Stars 4-1 last night.

Now Detroit goes from worrying about becoming the third team to blow a 3-0 series lead to trying to win its fourth championship in 11 seasons. The Red Wings will face the Pittsburgh Penguins, with the first two games at Joe Louis Arena.

Detroit will be the home team because it had more regular-season points — most in the league, in fact. The Red Wings are the first recipient of the Presidents' Trophy to play for the Cup since they did so in 2002.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Detroit Red Wings forward Kris Draper watches the puck beat Stars goaltender Marty Turco for a goal last night during Game 6 of the NHL Western Conference finals in Dallas. The Red Wings won 4-1 to clinch a spot in the Stanley Cup final where they will face the Pittsburgh Penguins.

hockey

Bulls break out at Memorial Cup

PLAYOFF Shawn Matthias scored twice to pace the Belleville Bulls to a 6-3 win over the Gatineau Olympiques at the Memorial Cup last night in Kitchener, Ont.

Gatineau's loss was the Spokane Chiefs' gain as the Western Hockey League champions clinched the bye to Sunday's final.

NFL

Bengals release troubled Thurman

JOBS Troubled linebacker Odell Thurman was released by the Cincinnati Bengals yesterday, one month after he was reinstated by the NFL from a two-year suspension.

Thurman was suspended after he skipped a drug test and later was arrested for drunken driving.

tennis

Roddick pulls out of French Open

INJURIES American Andy Roddick withdrew from this year's French Open yesterday because of a right shoulder injury.

Roddick, who lost in the first round at Roland Garros the last two years, pulled out of the semifinals of the Rome Masters on May 10.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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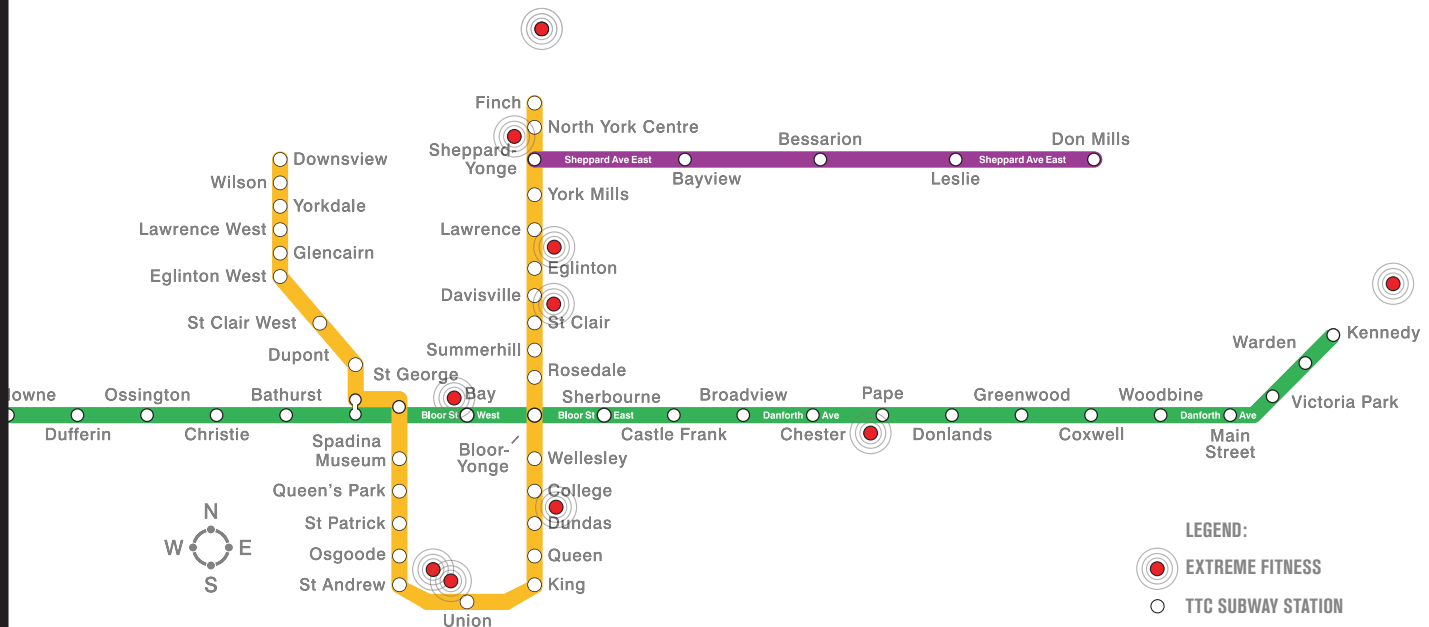


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Beware the Evil Empire

If you detest the multi-zillionaire New York Yankees — if you loathe the so-called Evil Empire so much that you are as openly ecstatic as Toronto sportscaster Mike Wilner was yesterday on the air, when he unabashedly declared his “love” for the team’s miseries and last-place status — well, enjoy the moment.

It may not last long.

The Yanks are a mere 20-24 and coming off an embarrassing Subway Series sweep against their geographic rivals, the New York Mets, and yet they’re confident that they’re on the verge of resurfacing as a dominant squad.

A few of their reasons:

- They were 20-24 last season before going 74-44 and seizing a post-season berth for the 13th consecutive year.
- Two of their premier players — Alex Rodriguez and Jorge Posada — should be returning from injuries soon.

- They will resort to wearing gold thongs underneath their pants in the next few games. No joke. First baseman Jason Giambi reveals the thongs, with their flame-line waistbands, are worn



YORK REPORT
MARTY YORK
marty.york@metronews.ca

by him and teammates whenever they’re trying to end slumps. “And it works for us every time,” he said.

So, um, don’t count out the Yankees just yet.

» As poor as the Yanks have been, the

Detroit Tigers are considerably worse.

With power hitters such as Magglio Ordonez and Miguel Cabrera, this team entered the season poised to lead the major leagues in offence and threaten the 1,000-run plateau. Instead, the AL’s cellar-dwellers have been unproductive and shut out an MLB-high seven times.

Manager Jim Leyland met Tigers chief Dave Dombrowski yesterday for some brainstorming.

“I’m totally out of answers,” Leyland said. “I’ve never been this baffled.”

» The Boston Red Sox, meanwhile, keep improving. The World Series champions may now be on the verge of



acquiring veteran shortstop Omar Vizquel from the San Francisco Giants. Vizquel and Boston slugger Manny Ramirez are best pals ... Ramirez is closing in on his 500th career home run and A-Rod has taped a congratulatory message for him that will be played at Boston’s Fenway Park, which has irked Yankee fans and the club’s Baby Boss, Hank Steinbrenner ... He might be a bit shaky at times, but consider B.J. Ryan’s operation (he missed last season because of Tommy John surgery) a success. Ryan gives the Blue Jays as reliable a closer as there is in baseball ... And, according to U.S. in-

Wii Fit

How will it move you?

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sider Ken Rosenthal, the Jays are one of eight clubs that could pursue star outfielder Matt Holliday, who’ll likely be served up soon as trade bait by the Colorado Rockies.

In three-plus decades as a columnist and broadcaster, Marty York has built a network of solid contacts and a renowned reputation for his hard-hitting, groundbreaking style. The tradition continues in Metro Sports.

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NHL

CONFERENCE FINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

PHILADELPHIA VS. PITTSBURGH

Game 5 — Sunday
Pittsburgh 6 Philadelphia 0
(Pittsburgh wins series 4-1)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

DALLAS VS. DETROIT

Game 6 — Last night
Detroit 4 Dallas 0
(Detroit wins series 4-2)

NBA

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

BOSTON VS. CLEVELAND

Game 7 — Sunday
Boston 97 Cleveland 92
(Boston wins series 4-3)

DETROIT VS. ORLANDO

(Detroit wins series 4-1)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

L.A. LAKERS VS. UTAH

(L.A. Lakers win series 4-2)

NEW ORLEANS VS. SAN ANTONIO

Game 7 — Last night
San Antonio at New Orleans
(Series tied 3-3)

CONFERENCE FINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

BOSTON VS. DETROIT

Game 1 — Tonight
Detroit at Boston, 8:30

Game 2 — Thursday
Detroit at Boston, 8:30

Game 3 — Saturday
Boston at Detroit, 8:30

Game 4 — Monday, May 26
Boston at Detroit, 8:30

*Game 5 — Wednesday, May 28
Detroit at Boston, 8:30

*Game 6 — Friday, May 30
Boston at Detroit, 8:30

*Game 7 — Sunday, June 1
Detroit at Boston, 8:30

WESTERN CONFERENCE

L.A. LAKERS VS. NEW OR-

LEANS-SAN ANTONIO WINNER

Game 1 — Tomorrow
Chicago at TORONTO, 7:30

Game 4 — Tomorrow
Chicago at TORONTO, 7:30

(Chicago leads series 2-0)

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Tonight
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Tomorrow
Kitchener vs. Belleville, 7

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16, 21, 26, 28, 31,

32, 39, 43, 51, 53,

54, 56, 58, 63, 66.

Saturday, May 17, 2008

Lotto 6/49 5, 21, 35, 38, 47

& 48. Bonus 45.

Ontario 49 4, 7, 14, 21, 34

& 49. Bonus 18.

Lottario 2, 4, 6, 24, 28

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Early bird 2, 12, 25 & 44.

Ontario Pick 3 9 3 6

Ontario Pick 4 3 3 1 9

Encore 0773619

Daily Keno 7, 11, 15, 16, 18,

24, 25, 31, 33, 37,

38, 41, 42, 45, 48,

54, 56, 58, 68, 69.

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Ontario Pick 3 3 1 0

Ontario Pick 4 6 3 5 3

Encore 4479772

Daily Keno 1, 2, 4, 9, 10,

17, 18, 19, 25, 26,

29, 37, 39, 43, 45,

51, 54, 55, 60, 68.

Results not official



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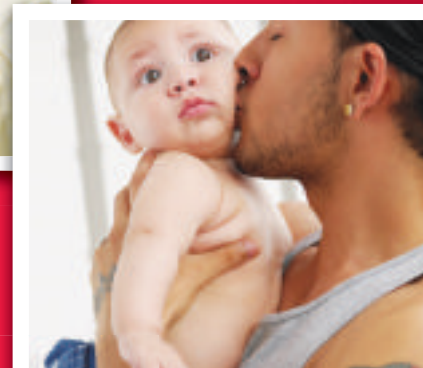
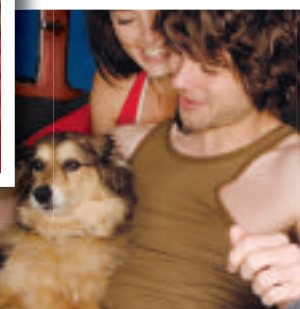
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MLB

BoSox's Lester throws no-hitter

MILESTONE Jon Lester can now add pitching a no-hitter to his already amazing list of accomplishments.

The 24-year-old left-hander, who survived cancer and came back to pitch the clincher of the Boston Red Sox's 2007 World Series victory, shut down Kansas City 7-0 last night for the first no-hitter in the majors this season.

Lester allowed just two baserunners and struck out nine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rios seeks breakthrough

No easy answers for slumping Blue Jays slugger

Alex Rios stood in front of his locker, legs wide, bat raised above his head. Teammate Marco Scutaro stood a few feet distant, offering his thoughts in Spanish. Rios pointed at his legs, his stance, indicated his arms, dropped his elbow a bit.

Scutaro shrugged and didn't say much. The impromptu hitting consultation lasted only a few seconds.

Rios didn't look satisfied with the results.

After a painfully slow start to the year, the two-time all-star is looking for help wherever he can.

Asked later what he thinks is causing his early season struggles, Rios seemed bewildered.

"I have no clue," Rios said.

He talked about his missing swing

like it was a lost dog: "If I knew where it was, I'd just go get it."

The right-fielder is in the midst of the worst extended slump of his career. Over the last 15 games, he has gone 10-for-66.

More ominously, his power has dried up



Alex Rios

completely. All but two of those hits are singles and he hasn't hit a home run since May 1.

Rios isn't the only one. Asked over the weekend to name the hitters he feels are at or reaching potential, manager John Gibbons quickly spat out Scott Rolen's name. A few seconds later, he added that Aaron Hill and Lyle Overbay are "starting to show some signs of life." Then he stopped cold, realized he was stuck and flashed a helpless smile.

Casting around a bit, Gibbons finally remembered Scutaro, who has hit .302 since stepping into the shortstop role.

This, of course, is the guy who goes back to the bench on Thursday when David Eckstein returns.

But there are signs of hope. The offence — particularly through the power of Matt Stairs and Rod Barajas — pulled its weight in Minneapolis and Philadelphia, giving the team hope ahead of a

three-game series with the Los Angeles Angels beginning tonight.

With Vernon Wells sidelined for as many as seven more weeks by a broken wrist, an enormous weight has fallen on Rios. The team's main offensive engine over the past two years, Rios must also deal with the expectations created by his recent six-year, \$64-million US deal.

He has spent weeks working overtime in the cages with hitting coach Gary Denbo. Rios has worked individually with manager Gibbons, an unusual bit of extra tutoring.

"I'm just going to work on it until I find that feeling and then I'm going to go from there," Rios said. "Right now, I'm just trying to do the things I was doing last year and in 2006. Just trying to go back in my memories and go from there. I don't think there's anything I can really do because my stance has always been the same. It's something that just has to come to me."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian Paralympian cleared of doping charge

Canadian wheelchair racer Jeff Adams has won his battle against a two-year doping suspension, paving the way for a return to the track for the six-time world champion.



Adams

The Paralympic athlete from Brampton was cleared of an alleged anti-doping infraction by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in a unanimous decision Friday, his lawyer Tim Danson said in a statement yesterday.

Danson said the three-judge panel concluded there was no prohibited substance in Adams' system at the time of the competition or at the time he was drug tested.

Adams was suspended for two years for testing positive for cocaine at the 2006 Canadian wheelchair marathon championships in Ottawa.

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Homeowner squeezed by credit

First-time buyers frequently don't anticipate costs

Q Last December, I purchased a condo, but I didn't anticipate all the costs of homeownership and used some other sources to close and finance.

In addition to my mortgage, I have three credit cards, two department store cards, and a line of credit.

Which should I pay down first — the biggest loans, the mortgage or the other loans?

— ANNA

A Borrowers should pay down debts that carry the highest interest rates such as department store



MONEY MATTERS
HENRY CHOO CHONG
choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

and credit cards.

If you receive a "Congratulations, we are increasing your credit limit" notice from your department store or credit card company, decline the increase.

Consolidate your debts

by increasing lower-interest LOCs and pay off the cards. Then dispose of some cards, and keep no more than the number of hands — not fingers — you have.

More than 60 per cent of Canadians own their own home; it's a worthwhile aspiration.

But many first-time buyers

«First-time buyers should be cognizant of all the costs associated with home ownership to avoid getting into debt and borrowing to finance recurring monthly expenses.»

underestimate closing and monthly carrying costs.

For example, costs incurred on closing

can include land transfer

tax, appraisal fees, legal fees and disbursements, a portion of property taxes, utilities, new home warranties and so on. And recurring monthly expenses include mortgage pay-

ments, utilities, property taxes, maintenance fees, repairs, insurance and the like. So first-time buyers should be cognizant of all the costs associated with home ownership to avoid

getting into debt and borrowing to finance recurring monthly expenses.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA provides professional accounting and taxation solutions for individuals, businesses and corporations. E-mail all questions to Money Matters: choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

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Planning budget-wise holidays in your own city

Q My husband and I are trying to plan a summer getaway but after looking at our finances, we're wondering if we can even afford it. Do you have any suggestions for getting away for less? — SARAH S.



www.smartcookies.com

As summer approaches, more and more of our readers are expressing similar concerns. But even if a vacation seems out of reach this year, there is a way to get away.

Who said travel had to involve leaving your city?

In every town, there are tons of attractions which locals never visit or may not even know about. Here are a few tips on

being a tourist in your own town, Smart-Cookie style.

First things first. As a tourist, you'll need to re-search as to what your hometown has to offer. Hit your computer and look up your city's visitor centre's website. Also, check out sites such as *tripadvisor.com* to find out what tourists are visiting in your city and when.

Most metropolitan cities throughout Canada offer cultural neighborhoods and districts, as well as theatre and entertainment

districts. Try experiencing a new ethnic cuisine, or hit a local theatre. One of our favorites is our local Chinese night market where you can find anything from cheap knockoff purses to the latest kitchen gadget. And for last minute theatre and entertainment tickets for up to 50 per cent off, check out *www.ticketstonight.ca*.

Think that hotels are only for out of town guests? Think again. Getting away from your regular surroundings and



TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

For a budget-wise vacation, consider the possibilities in your hometown.

staying in a hotel for a night could be exactly what the doctor ordered.

Many hotels offer discounts to locals — all you have to do is ask! And if you have the flexibility to stay at a hotel mid-week, rather than the weekend, or even in the off-season, prices can be even better.

To truly experience the city and to help save the planet, leave your car at home and travel like a tourist. Most major cities offer transit systems or special tourist buses which can get you to all the major attractions. And with the price of gas these days, you will likely save money as well. The key is to have fun

without spending a fortune.

Let's be honest, we could all use some time to recharge those batteries and if a trip away is a bit too pricey right now, there are ways to 'get away from it all' without actually leaving your own town.

If you have questions for the Smart Cookies, e-mail us at *smartcookies@metronews.ca*. And don't forget to check us out every Wednesday on the W Network in our new time slot at 9 p.m. EST/PST.

The Smart Cookies show you their way to financial freedom. Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network. Be sure to visit *smartcookies.com* to get new money tips and sign up for our newsletter.

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Young, Urban, Active





Swimming and yoga, below, are considered to be "allergy-friendly" exercises, while jogging is among the worst, experts say.

Fitness nothing to sneeze at

Allergy sufferers need not forgo outdoor exercise

By **BRIAN TOWIE**
Metro Toronto

If you're the outdoorsy athletic type, it's the perfect time of year to head outside for some fresh air and exercise. But if you're also the allergic type, there's no worse season to do it.

Pollens, dust mites, moulds, animal dander, grasses, and ragweeds are among other substances ready and waiting to take your breath away this season, but that doesn't mean you should confine yourself to staying indoors. There are various ways you can enjoy the great outdoors and keep your allergic reactions to a minimum, experts say,

and some of them are fairly simple.

"The message from allergists is don't suffer. Don't tough it out," says Dr. Susan Wasserman, an allergist at McMaster University in Hamilton. "Allergy season is very long and it affects work, school and play. There's enough data now that says it can be a great interference."

Dr. Mark Greenwald of the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology says aside from treating your allergies

with immunizing shots, dedicated exercisers can work out later in the day when cooling air currents drop and the pollens they carry are at their lowest counts.

Wasserman says this may not be so ideal for today's high-powered nine-to-five, however.

"It's the classic advice we (allergists) give people, and we realize how impractical this is," says Wasserman. "We don't want people to have to go to these dramatic measures in order for people to work out effectively. We'd like

them to see their doctors and medicate."

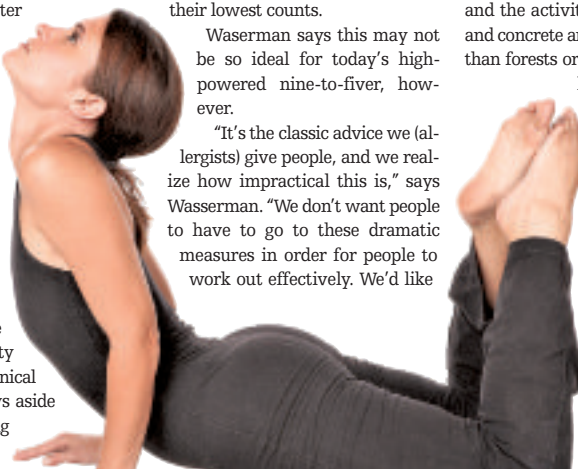
You can also reduce your reactions based on your surroundings, and the activities you do. Beaches and concrete areas are better suited than forests or anywhere else with heavy vegetation, Wasserman says.

More "allergy-friendly" exercises include swimming and yoga, experts advise, while jogging is among the worst. Because of quicker breathing, runners will intake pollens at a faster rate, says Greenwald, adding you should intake air through the nose.

"Mouth breathing gives allergens a more direct route to the lungs," Greenwald says. "The function of the nose, other than humidifying and warming the air, is a filter. If you eliminate the filter, a blocked nose for example, you're going to switch to mouth breathing earlier. We can get our lungs to react with spasms and inflammation."

But the best advice, allergists say, is to recognize and deal with the problem that causes reactions.

"Run a very sharp knife across the palm of your hand," says Greenwald. "How long did it take for the damage to occur? Not long. How long will it take you to get better? A lot longer. Same idea with allergies. The spasm is short, but it's the stuff going on inside you that's causing you to feel what you feel and it should be treated."



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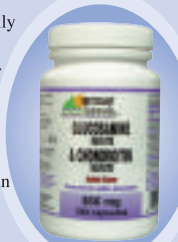


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Alternatives to moo juice



From the editors of alive magazine; alive.metro@alive.com

Looking for an alternative to cows' milk? You're not alone: Many people today are facing this challenge. Drinking cows' milk is a problem for people with lactose intolerance and/or dairy allergies.

MILK ALLERGY

Commonly confused with lactose intolerance, a milk allergy involves the immune system, which fails to recognize the proteins in milk as safe, and instead treats them as foreign invaders — the same way the immune system treats bacteria and viruses.

The result is a release of inflammatory mediators, and an unhappy and unhealthy digestive tract. A milk allergy typically involves many parts



Drinking cows' milk can be a problem for those with lactose intolerance and/or dairy allergies.

of the body and can manifest itself as swelling, hives, rashes, nasal congestion, asthma, nausea, diarrhea, or gas.

MILK ALTERNATIVES

A quick visit to the local health food store offers a number of milk alternatives, such as soy, almond, rice, oat, potato, and coconut milk.

These products do not contain casein, the main protein found in cows' milk.

LACTOSE INTOLERANCE

Lactose is a sugar in cows' milk that many people are unable to digest. Lactose intolerance is a condition in which the gastrointestinal tract contains insufficient lactase, the enzyme that di-

gests lactose. Lactose intolerance exhibits symptoms such as lower intestinal cramping, bloating, gas, and diarrhea. Luckily, milk alternatives such as almond, rice, and soy beverages naturally contain no lactose.

SOY BENEFITS

Choosing soy as an alternative to cows' milk has other advantages: The phytoestrogens in soy milk are thought to slow bone loss; and the American Heart Association recommends that soy products be included in a healthy diet. Soy can also help reduce the risk of heart disease, lower cholesterol, and control glucose levels.

If you suffer from dairy allergies or lactose intolerance, there are many alternatives to cows' milk offered at your local health food store.

» For more, visit alive.com.

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'Knowledge is power'

Be proactive to avoid reactions at spa: Expert

By **SANDY CAETANO**
Metro Toronto

Going to a spa and being pampered with a massage, facial, manicure or pedicure is a luxury many people love to indulge in.

But when you have allergies to specific skin-care products, the idea of going to the spa might not be so relaxing.

Most allergy sufferers are aware of what causes their allergies, so if something used for one of the treatments at a spa could cause you to have a reaction, you should let the spa know prior to booking your appointment, says Gaye Sihin, assistant manager at Toronto's Elm Spa.

"To ensure comfort and ease for both service provider and spa guest, we encourage a proactive approach and sharing of information at time of booking," says Sihin. "As with most things, knowledge is power; the more information we have, the better. This will allow our spa care experts to pre-

pare and make substitutions as necessary."

At all spas, guests are required to fill in a health history form, as regulated by the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario, before treatment. Before commencement of both aesthetic and massage services, spa care experts and registered massage therapists conduct a verbal consultation to ensure guests know what to expect.

Some spas use products with natural ingredients but even still, reactions may occur. Mike Nasser, owner of Avalon Salon and Spa in Calgary, says his spa uses mostly water-based products so to avoid reactions.

"People with allergies would have to use something that's water based, so that includes anything you put on the face or anything you put in the water for pedicures," he says.



For those with severe nut allergies, avocado mud masks might also pose a danger.

"You have to read and get educated about the product carefully," Nasser says. "If you have a product you use at home, you could bring it with you and we'll use that instead."

"You'll have to talk to the esthetician beforehand to do a test, so for example in the hair business, if you're allergic to the hair colouring we put a little spot behind your ear to examine what the reaction is going to be."

Spas such as Fiorio carry a specific sensitive line that they use when people have allergies. But what happens if someone has a reaction during or following a treatment?

Sonia Marques, esthetician/manager, says that depending on the re-



Avocado mud masks may pose a danger for those with nut allergies.

actions, they are able to control it before it gets out of hand. Things such as cold compresses followed by an application of decongestant gel and soothing protection cream calms the skin and reduces redness and itching.

"Sometimes we can use a mask that will calm it right down, which we call our 9-1-1 mask," she says. "If the allergy is within 24 hours, usually they have to go to their doctor or take some Benadryl to calm it down — it depends if it's asthma or hives."

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3. In a canoe, below
4. On the edge of a cliff
5. In a Porta-Potty

— Kasia Iglinski/Metro Toronto



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Outdoor fun spices up relationship

It may have been cold this long weekend, but many of us have found a perfect way to keep warm while still enjoying the great outdoors. Seven out of 10 Canadians say they have had sex while camping, suggests a survey of 700 people by Trojan Intensity condoms, with women more likely than men to admit to enjoying our outdoor adventures.

For Stephanie Nairn, 25, getting wild in the wilderness isn't the primary agenda for pitching a tent and setting up camp, but it is a great way to connect with her partner.

"When you are camping it can be very intimate and



DATING JUNGLE
KASIA IGLINSKI
datingjungle@metronews.ca

romantic. It's good quality time with each other and that is what often leads to the sex," she says.

But if this past weekend didn't find you reconnecting with nature ... and your partner, remember camping season has only just begun.

Sarah Forbes-Roberts, co-

owner of Come As You Are sex store, believes getting down and dirty in the great outdoors is a perfect way to spice up a relationship.

"People do get stuck in sexual ruts and (sex outside) creates that element of something new and exciting," says Forbes-Roberts. "Plus there is something to be said about having sex in the wilderness that feels deliciously risky."

Although it may be wise to pack some lube, condoms and maybe even a solar-powered vibrator for the sexually adventurous along with that sleeping bag and tent, Forbes-

Roberts says the best summer memories are likely to be born out of spontaneity and picking the right moment.

"Try using what you have around you," suggests Forbes-Roberts. "Bring that air mattress out (of the tent) or try using some picnic tables to your advantage."

Just be mindful of splinters, mosquitoes and neighbouring campers — unless, of course, you want your sexual exploits posted on YouTube.

Kasia Iglinski is a journalist who enjoys her work and her dating life. Armed with a notepad and a curious mind, she's always on the prowl for a good story and a good date.

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workology



Forty-three per cent of working moms would take a pay cut to spend more time with their kids a CareerBuilder.com survey found — with 34 per cent of them stating they would be willing to give up 10 per cent or more.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Moms that made it all work

Conference zeroes in on mix of work, home life



speaking to life

» The conference was organized by LifeSpeak, which designs customized workshop series for clients to give employees an opportunity to learn from experts on a range of topics from time management to caring for aging parents.

Claire Johnson was yearning for something more after the birth of her twins, but the piano lessons alone just weren't cutting it.

Three months after delivering sons Brock and Byron, the new mother was seeking something to help ease the feelings of claustrophobia at home, but it seemed nothing truly did the job.

Along with feeling "a little caged up" at home, Johnson was also dealing with the transition from life as an independent career woman to motherhood.

"My girlfriend has a good term for it — love shackled,"

Johnson said. "You end up with these wonderful children, but you can't get away from them at times."

Now she's a mother of four — the five-year-old twins have been joined by two-year-old Natalie and eight-month-old Evan. And Johnson said she realized the answer for her was balancing time at home with part-time work at CIBC Mellon, where she serves as vice-president of product management and client integration solutions.

She was among the panelists of career moms sharing

insights and strategies for success during Making It Work.

The panel was part of a pilot project half-day conference of the same name aimed at providing expectant moms, women on maternity leave and those heading back to the workplace with information on parenting while also addressing issues of integrating work and home life.

Johnson spoke of her decision to go to her boss to discuss restructuring her work schedule, drawing laughs when sharing she initially asked to work one day a week.

She now works Mondays through Wednesdays, but said there is flexibility to go to the office two days a week and to field conference calls if needed on her off days from home.

Johnson said one of the challenges faced by women wanting to work part-time is that employers aren't used to it and often don't know how to accommodate — factors she said shouldn't be a barrier for working moms seeking to pursue it as an option.

"I think women need to understand they are hugely valuable, and to make sure that what they're asking for is reasonable, but at the same time asserting themselves to say 'This is good for you and it's good for me,'" she said.

"I think a lot (of women) apologize, they kind of skulk



It is possible to balance a career and being a mom, according to some panellists at the recent Making It Work seminar.

out of the office when they leave right at five sort of hoping nobody is too offended. The reality is, somebody has to raise children, and these

women have a lot of knowledge to contribute to the workforce, so why not support both?"

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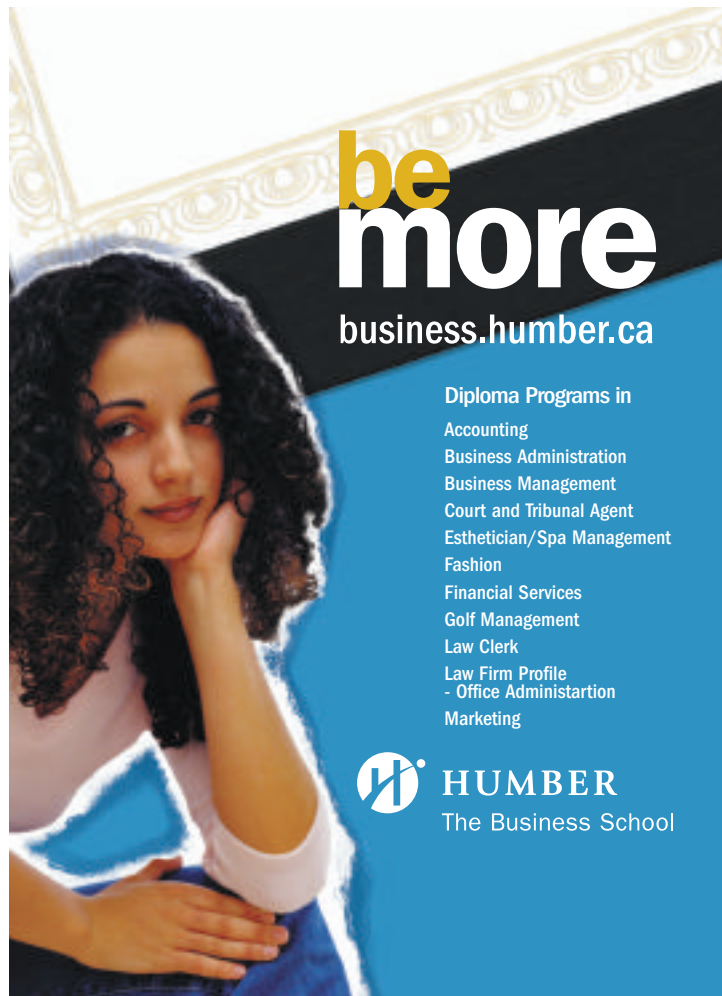
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Canadian vies for the mansion

Sen. Hillary Clinton isn't the only woman campaigning for votes. Talia Russo needs your support too only her destination isn't the White House, it's the Playboy Mansion.

"I've always wanted to be a Playmate, and I'm going to try my hardest to make my dreams come true," says Russo, 28.

The actress/model befriended Hugh Hefner during a brief stay in Los Angeles last month. In town to promote *The Dead Sleep Easy*, a low-budget action flick, Russo told her friend it'd be a dream to meet the Playboy tycoon. Her friend then placed a call to actor Dick Van Patten's son, Jimmy and voila — the golden gates parted.

"The biggest misconception (is that) everyone is always naked at the mansion. It wasn't like that at all," says Russo. "Everyone was very civil and

Hefner was very chilled. He is 82, so not a party animal as we all would think."

And no, he didn't make any moves on Russo, but he did offer this word of advice: "You never know until you try." That's what fellow Torontonian, Jayde Nicole did, after all, and she wound up being this year's Playmate of the Year, the second Canadian to win that title.

"She's a smart business girl and knows how to promote herself," says Russo, who met Nicole during last week's autograph-signing blitz.

It's one step at a time, however, which is why Russo is gunning for Miss January 2009 Playmate. 2009 is particularly special for it marks Playboy's 55th

Anniversary.

Russo's bid is posted on www.youtube.com/playboycasting. People are asked to vote for their favourite Playmate after viewing the non-nude two-minute video submissions. The Top 3 gals win a trip to L.A. for a mansion tour, test shoot and interview. The winner struts away with \$25,000 along with all the glitzy privileges the mansion affords, not to mention a career-boosting dose of publicity.

For Russo, the last perk is the most

alluring. "My favourite Playboy model, though never titled a Playmate, is Carmen Electra. I love what she did with the exposure," explains Russo referring to Electra's ability to mount a successful

showbiz career. Wait, there's also Pamela Anderson and Shannon Tweed,



but let's not lose focus here.

Russo has been working in the business for nine years. She's trained with Second City, Equity Showcase and danced with Electric Circus. This August, she appears in the *The Rocker*, a big studio film directed by Peter Cattaneo (*The Full Monty*) starring Rainn Wilson (*The Office*).

Commendable accomplishments considering Russo is self-represented. "I'm naturally a self-pro-



Name Talia Russo (with Hugh Hefner) | Age 28 | Occupation Model/actress

moter. I can sell anything." That includes the dream. "Life is short and I learned that the hard way from my father. He died (of cancer) when I was seven. I grew

up believing in living life to the fullest and that anything's possible."

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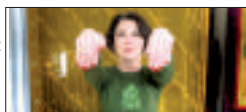
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on the »
move with enza
by enza supermodel
enza.supermodel@metronews.ca

name » Sofi Estrada

age » 29

occupation » Administration

location » Yonge and Wellesley Streets

SOFI ESTRADA deals with some sales but mainly customer service in her work in administration at L3 Fitness Club (l3fitnessclub.com). She transitioned into the new job this past July. It was temp work and an eventual full-time position with a former fitness organization that put her on track to working in the fitness industry.



Photo by Enza Supermodel

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Nation's minds excel

Canada's youngest scientists have business in mind

By **RAFAEL BRUSILOV**
for Metro Toronto

Desires to both learn about the world and work to change it for the better motivate 16 of Canada's brightest young minds.

Hailing from high schools across all parts of the country, the 16 teenaged finalists chosen to represent Canada at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair beamed with excitement at a showcase event in Toronto before heading off to the site of this year's 11th annual fair in Atlanta, Ga.

"It's definitely been an experience of a lifetime," said Michael Peters, 16, from Victoria, B.C.

His invention is the definition of simplicity: A wheelchair that straps the user's legs into an array that keeps them in motion as the chair moves to prevent dangerous blood clots. Peters' grandmother suffered a stroke in 2002 so he built the chair with her legacy in mind. Peters designed his chair to be easily manufactured because



Beth Ferreira, 16, from Winnipeg, Man., speaks to a news reporter about her project. She showed how analysis of seal claws can be an indication of their level of exposure to mercury. She tied with three other world competitors for the second prize of \$1,500.

he hopes it will go into real production.

"Often the best solutions to the most difficult problems are the simplest," Peters said.

Other finalists also had strong personal reasons for their research. Yale Michaels, a 16-year-old student from Winnipeg, Man., designed a way to better differentiate cancerous and non-cancerous cells in a person's body in order to create a therapy that could target cancer cells in an early stage. His own grandmother died of cancer, causing Michaels to realize how prevalent the disease is.



Llew Falle, 15, from Sarnia, Ont., displays his entry project that showed how microbial fuel cells can be used to extract electricity from methane gas found in manure.

"Everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer," Michaels said.

Doug Cooper, country manager for Intel Canada, says Intel sees the annual fair as a key lifeline for developing the kind of talent central to its own success.

"The skills we see represented here are fundamental to the viability of our business," Cooper said. Science fairs aren't just a fun diversion for smart kids, Cooper says. Real, marketable inventions and technologies have resulted from them. Case in point: The insulin dispenser.

"This is university-grade science," he said.

Cooper suggests the biggest difference between science fairs 11 years ago and today is that kids are much more prepared to take ownership of their intellectual properties.

Some are already thinking business: Peters has started

the patent process on his blood-clot-preventing wheelchair, while 16-year-old Roopa Suppiah from Deep River, Ont., greeted interviewers with her own business cards. Her project found an economically viable way to reduce the greenhouse gas effect by

converting carbon dioxide from emissions into useful organic materials like ethanol.

Other projects included better solar panels to maximize energy collection, a way to use bacteria to regulate diseases like HIV and rheumatoid arthritis and even a new method for attaching horseshoes to horses' hooves without nails.

Laurent Fradet, 17, from Sherbrooke, Que., who found a way to make bone cement safer, says the experience has opened his eyes.

"It's really a trigger that's brought me into science," Fradet said.

national pride

» The fair was held May 11-17 in Atlanta and 10 of the 16 Canadian teens placed in the top four award categories for their respective subject areas.

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Actor Will Smith, left, is investing more than \$1 million US in a new school near his Calabasas, Calif., home. IMDB.COM

Nailing the stunt

Movie veteran shares secrets from National Treasure 2

By RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Toronto

On a private road on the grounds of a palatial estate in Bedfordshire outside London, under the roaring flight path of Luton airport, a group of professional stunt drivers are recreating a scene from National Treasure 2 for the edification of the international press. Groups of journalists are being rotated through the site, packed into a series of cars, and driven wildly down the road while a truck tosses

beer kegs at them, in an attempt to duplicate a scene from the movie shot a year earlier in downtown London.

Overseeing it all is Graham Kelly, a 30-year movie stunt veteran who had the title "action vehicle supervisor" for the Disney film starring Nicolas Cage and Jon Voigt. The beard and wild hair, he explains, were grown in recently to double Anthony Hopkins in The Wolf Man, then in production in England. Four times today he'll stand just next to the country road with his walkie-talkie giving cues and anxiously watching his team of stunt drivers hurl journalists around the inside of spe-

cially-prepared cars while the beer kegs — actually made of fibreglass and foam rubber — rain down on them and bounce around the road.

"I sort of fell into it really," he recalls, looking back on how he ended up here. "A friend of mine, my best friend, his father was a stunt man. He naturally progressed into stunts and I went with him. Nowadays, it's a much different kettle of fish becoming a stunt man. They have very stringent rules. You have to have six qualifications up to a gold standard in things like martial arts, riding, diving, all these kind of things, before you're eligible to become a stunt man.

You only ever get the best people."

The car chase that anchors the first half of National Treasure 2 is considered one of the biggest, and certainly the fastest, that's ever been filmed in central London. It took six weeks to shoot, with Kelly and his team rehearsing every collision and rollover on a course outside the city, and shooting at a breakneck pace over the weekends, when the business and tourist heart of London could be safely locked down and dressed up.

"The thing about stunts," Kelly tells us, "is that the smallest stunt has to be done as properly as the biggest



Stunt veteran Graham Kelly oversees a vehicle chase sequence. PHOTO COURTESY DISNEY

stunt, and it's the smallest stunt that'll get you hurt and not the biggest stunts, because there's so much preparation taken into high falls and fire jobs and car turnovers and that. I special-

ize in horses, and basically it's you, the horse and the ground, and it hurts a lot more than rolling a car. Horse boys have the hardest job in films, I think, and I am one, so, of course, I'll say that."

Complicated bond between mother, daughter

Follows shares stage with real mom in play

By CHRIS ATCHISON
Metro Toronto

The age at which a parent finally recognizes her daughter as an adult varies — for some it's when the child moves out, for others it's an age milestone, while some parents find it exceedingly difficult to acknowledge their kids' transition into adulthood.

Canadian actress Megan Follows, who earned international recognition as a teenager with her portrayal of the Lucy Maud Montgomery character Anne Of Green Gables, and her mother Dawn Greenhalgh say they've



Actress Megan Follows, left, and her mother Dawn Greenhalgh rehearse a scene from the play 'Night, Mother.' CHRIS ATCHISON/METRO TORONTO

long since cleared that hurdle and admit they've shared a different sort of relationship, both personally and professionally.

"I think it's interesting that our (relationship) is a little less traditional given what we do," Follows, 40, explains during a recent interview.

"I always saw my parents in two roles. They were my parents, but they were also people who were artists, who had a passion, something that was really, really important to them. They were very much defined by their work and their world in the theatre."

Follows and Greenhalgh are currently co-starring in the Soulpepper Theatre Company's production of Marsha Norman's Pulitzer Prize-winning play 'Night, Mother.' Follows plays Jessie in the production, the daughter of Greenhalgh's Thelma, who opens the show with a declaration to her mother that she's about to kill herself — it's the

beginning of a theatrical journey focusing on the realities of love, death and the often complicated relationships between mothers and daughters.

Greenhalgh feels there's an advantage to acting with her daughter, but points out that at times it can be difficult to stay in character while on stage. "Because she's my own daughter, there isn't quite that separation that would happen if it were another actress," she reflects.

Follows says the lifetime she's known her mother makes the sharing of ideas almost instinctive. "It's a kind of a short-hand because you come at it with a lifetime of knowing somebody."

now playing

» 'Night, Mother opens today and plays until June 21 at the Distillery District's Young Centre for the Performing Arts.

weekend box office

» Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday, according to Media By Numbers LLC.

- » 1. The Chronicles Of Narnia: Prince Caspian, \$56.6 million US
- » 2. Iron Man, \$31.2 million
- » 3. What Happens In Vegas, \$13.9 million
- » 4. Speed Racer, \$7.6 million
- » 5. Baby Mama, \$4.6 million
- » 6. Made Of Honor, \$4.5 million
- » 7. Forgetting Sarah Marshall, \$2.5 million
- » 8. Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay, \$1.8 million
- » 9. The Forbidden Kingdom, \$1 million
- » 10. The Visitor, \$687,000

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movies

Alchemist heads to big screen

ADAPTATION For 15 years, Hollywood has tried and failed to transform the best-selling novel *The Alchemist* into silver-screen material.

Now Harvey Weinstein says he has the magic formula.

Weinstein said Sunday he will produce Paulo Coelho's inspirational fable about a Spanish shepherd on a quixotic quest. Actor Laurence Fishburne (*The Matrix*), already attached to the project, will direct and star as the title character, who guides the shepherd along his way. Shooting will start about a year from now.

"The book is simple and spiritual, and the screenplay will reflect that," Weinstein said at the Cannes Film Festival.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Myanmar relief gig

Rock act Sunshine State, Broken Social Scene guitarist Jason Collett and flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook are among the musicians set to perform at a benefit concert tonight for victims of the cyclone in Myanmar.

Funds raised will be sent to Buddhist monks and non-governmental aid organizations through the International Burmese Monks Organization — by-passing the country's military dictatorship. The gig is taking place at Lula Lounge (1585 Dundas St. W.) at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cook

Battle of David and David

Rocker, balladeer vie for title of American Idol

The final American Idol showdown has finally arrived with the captivating rocker pitted against the all-American pretty boy.

But who will be crowned the seventh season's new Idol? Will it be 17-year-old David Archuleta from Murray, Utah? Or will 25-year-old David Cook's rock edge place him in the lead?

Throughout the entire season, viewers have learned a lot about both Archuleta, the singing sensation with the over-involved stage dad and Cook, the former bartender from Blue Springs, Mo. And both have equally powerful vocal ranges.

There's no doubt Archuleta would make a great pop star. After all,



SANDY CAETANO

sandy.caetano@metronews.ca

this is the type of artist all the 16-year-old girls go gaga for. His sweet, sultry-yet-cute look is what makes him so marketable. This aspiring young singer is best known for singing love songs, something he can nail without a hitch — of course that is if he doesn't forget the lyrics.

Wii Fit™

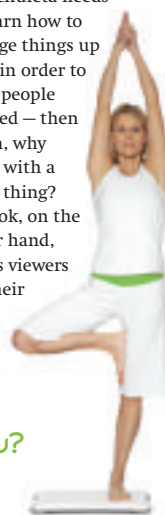
How will it move you?

Wii Fit is a trademark of Nintendo. © 2008 Nintendo.

Archuleta made that mistake earlier on this season, but was able to put the nerves behind him, and come back stronger than before. And though Archuleta is good at playing the balladeer, it does get kind of old.

Archuleta needs to learn how to change things up a bit in order to keep people hooked — then again, why mess with a good thing?

Cook, on the other hand, keeps viewers on their toes



CTV PHOTOS



David Cook, left, and David Archuleta.

with his interesting performances and unbelievable vocals. Week-to-week, you never know what to expect in terms of his song choice and what he plans on doing to that song.

It doesn't matter what type of song Cook is given. Whether it's a tune you would hear today's kids bopping their heads to or something taken from the '70s, Cook keeps it fresh. A perfect example was what he did last week with *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* by Roberta Flack —

he's a brilliant singer.

His ballsy risks of completely changing the arrangement of a song has worked for him thus far, and might help him win the title of American Idol tomorrow.

Yet, although Cook is very talented, as we've seen in a previous season with former contestant and Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson, talent doesn't always get you the win.

Sandy Caetano covers reality shows and has interviewed stars like Leanne Rimes, Lionel Richie, Paul Anka, Good Charlotte and more.

Chesney wins fourth straight top award

Kenny Chesney won entertainer of the year for a fourth straight time Sunday, then promptly took issue with the way the Academy of Country music awarded the honour: through fan votes.

For the first time in the show's 43 years, the top prize — traditionally decided by ACM members — was determined through online voting. With the win, Chesney ties Garth Brooks and trails only Alabama, which won five in a row.

Chesney said immediately backstage that he thought fans should be included, just not by voting for the show's most important award.

"The entertainer of the year trophy is supposed to represent heart and passion and an amazing amount of sacrifice, commitment and focus," he said. "That's the way Garth won it four times, that's the way I won it, that's the way (George) Strait won it, Reba (McEntire), Alabama all those years. That's what

it's supposed to represent."

He said his complaint is directed at the industry, not the fans — and that the method amounted to "complete disrespect" of the artists.

"I don't think it's right that they pick the one award that means the most, that all the artists sacrifice the most for. They've taken it from what the award really represents (and turned it) into a sweepstakes to see who can push the people's buttons the hardest on the Internet."

Chesney was the night's leading nominee with 11, and ended up winning two. His other win was for vocal event of the year for his work on the Tracy Lawrence hit *Find Out Who Your Friends Are*.

Brad Paisley won top male vocalist, his second in a row.

"I really want to say the reason I'm in country music is because my grandfather

would make me listen to Buck Owens when I was like 4-years-old, and I think Buck was the first male vocalist for this organization. I'm so honoured to carry the torch for another year," Paisley said.

Carrie Underwood also took home her second consecutive female vocalist trophy.

"I know I don't deserve it, but I'll take it," Underwood said. "Fans got me everything I have, and I owe everything to you."

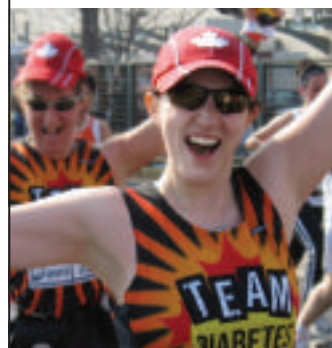
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Chesney

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If you are interested in participating or have questions about the study, please call 416-586-8778. The principal investigators are Dr. Bernard Zinman and Dr. Ravi Retnakaran. www.mtsinai.on.ca

Get. To. The. Point.



Not necessarily Treasure

National Treasure 2:
Book Of Secrets

Stars: Nicolas Cage

Distributor: Disney DVD



DISNEY'S MARRYING of Indiana Jones with The Da Vinci Code will likely be seen as a telling symptom of the simmering paranoia that underlies this moment in history — not nearly as anxious or fearful as the post-Nixon '70s, but a sign that we can't even enjoy an action movie franchise without being reminded of our powerlessness, and the commonplace idea that knowledge is every day disappearing behind locked doors and into the realm of secretive cabals.

This is the only way of explaining how a farrago of sheer, giddy nonsense like National Treasure and its sequel, now on DVD, can assume such a mantle of unearned gravitas. Nicolas Cage is back as Ben Gates, the swashbuckling histo-



DVD REVIEWS

RICK MCGINNIS

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

rian, on a quest to clear his family's name after one of his ancestors is implicated in the Lincoln assassination. With a passel of bad-dies led by Ed Harris at his heels, he has to find a mythical city of gold to restore his reputation, and ends up with the feds in on the chase after he briefly kidnaps the president to get a glimpse at the book in the title — a conspiracy scrapbook collected by the residents of the White House for their eyes only. The book merits its own special feature in the packed bonus disc included with the film, during which we learn that

most of the people involved in the production tacitly believe such a thing exists in some form. Chalk it up to Disney's characteristic bloodlessness, but the book ends up playing as a hopeful, not sinister, artifact, probably because it implies that at least someone knows that someone knows the answers to history's questions.

Cranford

Stars: Judi Dench

Distributor: BBC DVD



Stitched together from three novellas by the Victorian novelist Elizabeth Gaskell, the BBC miniseries Cranford delivers a rich, bubbling broth of star-studded melodrama set in a time when, thanks to the uncertainty of medical science, anyone can die at any time, and frequently do, to heartbreaking effect.

It's fitting, then, that one of the central characters of the story is a young doctor

who sets up practice in the sleepy English town that gives the series its name, a place that's a functional matriarchy ruled by a group of women ranging from formidable to ridiculous; his ability to control his fate in their midst is as doubtful as his facility in staving off death.

With a cast that includes Judi Dench, Michael Gambon, Imelda Staunton, Eileen Atkins and the great Philip Glenister from Life On Mars, this 5-part series is never less than watchable, and is closer to riveting most of the time, especially when we've been conditioned to the fact that anyone, at any given time, can be carried off by a chill or the effects of an infection.

more online

» For reviews of Penn & Teller, The Night They Raided Minsky's and If It's Tuesday, It Must Be Belgium, please visit metronews.ca

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Jessica's 50-year journey

Jessica Farm Vol. 1

Author: John Simmons
Publisher: Fantagraphics Books
Price: \$14.95 US (Paperback)

COMIC BOOK CREATORS truly are vagabonds nowadays.

More and more in recent years, they work on a series for six or 12 months and then scurry off to the next book. This leaves readers to deal with either the end of a favourite monthly release or a new direction under a different writer and/or artist.

Fewer and fewer creators are willing to spend a few years really developing a book and its characters, like Brian Azzarello and Eduardo Riso and their 100 issues of 100 Bullets or Brian Bendis and Mark Bagley on Ultimate Spider-Man.

So to hear that Josh Sim-



COMIC BOOKS
JONATHAN P. KUEHLEYN
comicbooks@metronews.ca

mons plans to work on his book, Jessica Farm, for the next 50 years is pretty shocking.

Simmons, who enjoyed some critical success with his recent debut graphic novel, House, began Jessica Farm in January 2000 with a single page. Since then he has written and drawn one page a month and he plans to continue this pace for 50 years in total, releasing 96-page volumes every eight years until he completes a 600-page story.

As for the content of this first volume, Jessica Farm

is a very nice girl who lives in a very odd place. Her wonderfully quirky house is filled with secret spaces and hidden residents — from a friendly talking monkey to an angry nipple-twisting old man — and this first book follows Jessica's adventures on a not-so-simple trip downstairs on Christmas morning.

The Exterminators Vol. 4: Crossfire And Collateral

Author: Simon Oliver, Darick Robertson, Ty Templeton
Publisher: Vertigo/DC Comics
Price: \$16.99/\$14.99 US (Paperback)



THEY'VE BEATEN AN

army of skittering cockroaches before, but the exterminators at Bug-Bee-Gone have never faced anything like a legion of Mayan hissing.

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more online

» For Jonathan's reviews of Booster Gold: 52 Pick-Up, Superman/Batman: Torment, Nixon's Pals and Outsiders: Five Of A Kind, visit metronews.ca.

oriented series around turns the action up yet another notch as noted bug killer Henry James and his friends at this L.A.-based pest-control company come face to face with a bug that is rumoured to have brought down an entire ancient civilization.

Worse yet, their old nemesis Kheperon, apparently a reincarnated Egyptian god of bugs, is the one leading the hissing into battle, looking to see to it that the exterminators are the ones about to get gassed.

With a den filled with thousands and thousands of comics, Jonathan P. Kuehleyn is Metro's professional geek. He is, however, 6-foot-2 and 185 pounds, so you probably shouldn't call him that to his face.

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Degrassi actress turns to Philosophy

CELEB BEAUTY

MARCY CORNBLOM
entertainment@metronews.ca

Paula Brancati, actress, plays Jane on *Degrassi: The Next Generation* airing on CTV:

Q What products make you look and feel good?

A One of my favourite products is Philosophy's Vanilla Birthday Cake. It's a three-in-one shampoo, shower gel and bubble bath. It smells amazing!

Q Describe your style?

A My style is ever-changing. The key is looking classy and feeling comfortable.

Q How do you keep life in perspective?

A I surround myself with positive people. They keep me laughing and remind me not to sweat the small stuff.

Q What are your healthy eating habits?

A The biggest things for me personally include eating everything in moderation and drinking lots of water.

Paul Peic, co-host of The Big Flip II airing Saturday nights on HGTV:

Q What products make you look and feel good?

A Two of the products I use daily are St. Ives Apricot cleanser and Joico

ICE Spiker Water-Resistant Styling Glue for my hair. This gel is the strongest product out there.

Q Describe your style?

A I try to keep up with fashion trends, but it has been difficult in the past year. We are at the job site every day and are usually covered in dust and dirt by the end of the day. I am most comfortable in my surf shorts and flip flops.

Q How do you stay fit?

A I try to get to the gym three times a week. I do not drink, smoke or do drugs. I maintain a healthy lifestyle by staying active. I enjoy all types of extreme sports.

Q What are your healthy eating habits?

A I try to eat as healthily as possible. I start my day off with a protein shake and drink water throughout the day.

Marcy Cornblum is a freelance journalist. She has developed up-close and personal relationships with celebrities including actors, musicians, television personalities and politicians.



Paul Peic



Paula Brancati

Hicks heads to Broadway for Grease role

Taylor Hicks is going from Idol to Angel. The American Idol alum will join the Broadway cast of *Grease* on June 6, playing Teen Angel in the revival of the popular musical.

The grey-haired singer — whose Idol fan base was called The Soul Patrol — said he plans to add "soulful flavour" to his performance of *Beauty School Dropout*. The flashy role, he said, is "a classic fit for a classic performer."

"It's a big number, and, you know, I've made some pretty grand entrances before," Hicks told *The Associated Press* on Thursday. "And this one is probably the grandest entrance I've had in my career."

Well, besides Idol. Hicks, 31, took home the title in the fifth season of the top-rated Fox show — the biggest stage on television. He later lost his record deal with J Records, a label within Sony-BMG,

which signs the show's singers, and had been looking for the perfect part to make his debut on *The Great White Way*.

The Alabama-born crooner's run ends Sept. 7. He'll be the latest Idol to hit Broadway, following runs by season-three winner Fantasia Barrino (*The Color Purple*) and a host of also-rans including Clay Aiken (*Spamalot*) and Diana DeGarmo (*Hairspray*) **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Taylor Hicks

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**THE BARBER OF SEVILLE**

The COC's latest revival of Rossini's ever-popular comic opera. To May 23. Thu., Tue. 7:30 p.m.; Sat. 4:30 p.m. \$20-\$275. Four Seasons Centre, 145 Queen St. W. 416-363-8231.

BELLA DONNA The daughter of a former pope falls in love with a young soldier while both are in disguise. May 16-June 7. Mon.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sat. 2 p.m. Fri.-Sat. \$28; Tue.-Thu., Sat. matinee \$25; Mon. PWYC. Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley. 416-368-3110.

BREAKFAST Independent

Aunties present a new work by Anna Chatterton and Evalyn Parry. To June 1. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m. \$15-\$20. Theatre Centre, 100-1087 Queen St. W. 416-534-9261.

DANCE OF THE RED

SKIRTS To May 25. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 2:30 p.m. \$12-\$25; Sun. PWYC. Taragon Extra Space, 30 Bridgman. 416-531-1827.

DIRTY DANCING The musical based on the hit movie. To Aug. 31. Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 2 p.m. \$36-\$200. Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King St. W. 416-872-1212.

THE ECO SHOW A production that examines how the ecology of one family is changed by the ecology of the world. May 15-June 1.

Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. \$20-\$25; Sun. PWYC. Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander. 416-975-8555.

EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL The latest reanimation of the splatterstick spectacular. Extended to June 14.

Mon.-Thu. 8 p.m.; Fri. 7:30 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. 11 p.m.; Sat. 7 p.m. \$29.50-\$75. Diesel Playhouse, 56 Blue Jays Way. 416-961-5656.

EXPLOSION: A MUSICAL REVUE Highlights popular music over the last five decades. To July 6. Tue.-Sat. 8:15 p.m. (dinner 6:30 p.m.); Sun. 6:45 p.m. (dinner 5 p.m.); Wed., Sun. 12:30 p.m. (brunch 11 a.m.). \$55-\$95. Stage West Hotel Theatre, 5400 Dixie. 905-238-0042.

THE FACTS BEHIND THE

HELSEINKI ROCCAMATIOS

A story of two friends coping with AIDS by Life Of Pi author Yann Martel. May 21-25. Wed. 8 p.m. \$25. Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst. 416-504-9971.

KISMET A musical comedy about a failed poet whose life changes. May 21-June 8. Wed. 7 p.m. \$20. Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall. 416-755-1717.

LOVE AND MARRIAGE IN NEW YORK CITY Two Jamaican couples living in Manhattan marry for green cards. May 16-18. Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sat. 3 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. \$30-\$50. Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay W. 416-973-4000.

THE LAST FIVE YEARS A musical about two New

Yorkers who fall in and out of love over five years. May 21-31. Wed. 8 p.m. \$15. Bread and Circus, 193½ Baldwin. 647-281-1397.

MY FELLOW CREATURES

Two men serving time for the same crime are forced to question their desires. May 16-June 1. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m. Tue. \$15; Wed., Thu. \$18; Fri. \$20; Sat. \$25; Sun. PWYC. Theatre Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson. 416-504-7529.

RAPUNZEL: THE GIRL WITH THE GOLDEN HAIR

A musical version of the traditional story. To May 25. Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m., 2 p.m. \$13. Solar Stage Theatre, 4950 Yonge St. 416-368-8031.

Local listings by »

EYE WEEKLY

**OFFTHEMAPGALLERY**

Claudia Wittman works with Paul Couillard sharing methods of transformation that lie in her dance works. Full Moon all-night drop-in. May 20-21. 6 p.m.-6 a.m. PWYC. Offthemap-gallery, 712 Landsdowne. 416-642-2113.

SPRING SHOWCASE Presented by Canada's National Ballet School. May 21. 7:30 p.m. \$40; \$20 students/seniors. Betty Oliphant Theatre, 404 Jarvis. 416-964-5148.

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Feat. Approximately 3 Peters, Charity & Chastity, 10,000 To Flight. 8 p.m. \$5. Cameron House, 408 Queen St. W. 416-703-0811.

STANDING ON THE DAN-

FORTH Jo-Anna Downey hosts. Feat. Bryant Thompson, Dextor Ico, more. 9 p.m. PWYC. Eton House,

710 Danforth Ave. 416-466-6161.

YUK YUK'S DOWNTOWN

Amateur Night. 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. \$3. 224 Richmond St. W. 416-967-6425.

TOMORROW

ABSOLUTE COMEDY Pro-Am Night feat. Paul Morrisey, Fraser Young. \$6. 8:30pm. 2335 Yonge St. 416-486-7700.

BAD DOG THEATRE

Harold Night at the Bad Dog. 8 p.m. \$5. David Shore directs improv scenes, weaving them into full-length sets. 9 p.m. \$5. 138 Danforth Ave. 416-491-3115.

THE BOOM

Cheesecake Productions presents sketch comedy. 8 p.m. \$5. Supermarket, 268 Augusta. 416-840-0501.

CORKTOWN COMEDY

Brian Coughlin hosts stand-up. 8:30 p.m. Free. Betty's, 240 King St. E. 416-988-2675.

CAGE MATCH TOURNAMENT

Double-elimination competition. 8 p.m. Free. Savannah Room, 294 College St. 416-975-0845.

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Jo-Anna Downey hosts w/ Sabrina Jalees, Mark Little, more. 9 p.m. PWYC. Spirits, 642 Church St. 416-967-0001.



ACA GALLERY Bend, Fold, Manipulate: 20 artists stitch

for peace. To May 28. 183 Queen St. E. 647-868-6043.

AFRICA'S CHILDREN,

AFRICA'S FUTURE (AC-AF) Digital Quilt: A collaborative multimedia art project.

To May 31. 588 Richmond St. W. 416-203-3715.

ALLEN LAMBERT GALLERIA

Photo Narratives: Remembering the 20th Century. To May 30. 181 Bay St.

ALLIANCE FRANCAISE

Sommes-Nous? by Tendance Floue. To May 31. 24 Spadina Rd. 416-922-2014.

ARTISTS OF THE WORLD

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A SPACE GALLERY

Obsoleto Concepts: Works by various artists. To June 13. 401 Richmond St. W., suite 110. 416-979-9633.

BATA SHOE MUSEUM.

Japanese Footwear Exhibition. To May 29. On Pointe: The Rise Of The Ballet Shoe. To Sept. 28. Chronicles Of Riches: Treasures From The Bata Shoe Museum. To Feb. 2009. Beauty, Identity, Pride: Native North American Footwear. To Nov. 2009. 327 Bloor St. W. 416-979-7799.

BLACK MARKET

Reality Check: Various media by Global Aware artists. Ongoing. 256A Queen St. W. 416-

596-0138.

THE CAMERON HOUSE

La Espera: Prints by Deanna Gavida Austerberry. To June 7. 408 Queen St. W. 416-703-0811.

CITY OF TORONTO

ARCHIVES A Work in Progress: Preserving Toronto's Architectural Record. An overview of architectural holdings of the City of Toronto Archives from 1990 to the present. To Dec. 255 Spadina Rd. 416-392-0558.

CN TOWER

Photo exhibit: Part of CONTACT. To May 31. 301 Front St. W. 416-868-6937.

Local listings by »

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RENTALS

Renter's Resource

When you're living in a rental or leasing an apartment or condo, there are certain responsibilities that belong to the landlord and others that fall upon the tenant.

Bonnie Hoy, president of Bonnie Hoy and Associates - Independent Rental Consultants to Landlords says when it comes to first and last months' rent, the last month's rent is generally applied to the very last month of tenancy.

So, in most cases, Hoy says "the monies are used up prior to vacating." However, landlords do tend to hold onto the interest cheque if there are arrears outstanding.

But what can a landlord actually charge you for when you move out in terms of damage? What can the landlord hold you accountable for?

"The landlord can hold a tenant responsible for damages or repairs that are outside of normal wear and tear on a unit," says Hoy. "They can basically charge their costs for repairing or replacing same. No more and obviously they don't want to charge less."

The tenant is responsible to maintain the unit in a reasonable standard of cleanliness, to notify the landlord or all repairs and maintenance required as needed, to pay the rent on time, and to basically be a good neighbour.

"The landlord is responsible to maintain the unit in a reasonable state of repair," she says. "The landlord may charge a tenant for malicious or negligent damage caused by the tenant. For example, if a child flushes a toy down the toilet, the landlord may repair it but they will send the tenant the bill."

Sandy Caetano/Metro Toronto

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engagement

DeGeneres,
de Rossi to wedSAME-SEX
BAN LIFTED

Ellen DeGeneres and longtime girlfriend Portia de Rossi are jumping at the chance to get married. DeGeneres announced their engagement during a taping of her show Thursday, telling the studio audience the news that the California Supreme Court had struck down state laws against gay marriage. DeGeneres, 50, and de Rossi, 35, have been a familiar couple at Hollywood events.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gossip Girl meets hype machine

Struggling to
understand what
fuss is about

THE LAST BIG THING: Last month, New York magazine put Gossip Girl on the cover, with a long piece full of slack-jawed, over-written prose inoculated with just enough sarcasm to evoke the you-were-there-at-the-cultural-ground-zero mood that the magazine's best features once did so well, back when it printed the cover story that became the basis for Saturday Night Fever.

The story, written by Jessica Pressler and Chris Rovzar, gets off to a breathless start with a group of bridge-and-tunnel teens on the prowl one Manhattan weekend, going into a frenzy by a sighting of Penn Badgely, who plays Dan Humphrey on the CW network show.

The writers shift their tone to qualify their love of the show as ironic, at least at first.

"At first we cloaked our adoration in irony," Pressler and Rovzar write. "It's awesomely bad," we explained to friends. "You know, like Showgirls. Or a Bloomin' Onion."

"But before long we were covering the show pretty much exhaustively on the Daily Intelligencer, the blog we write on nymag.com."

First of all, I don't know what a Bloomin' Onion is either, but my alarm bells go off when I realize that I'm reading something written by people who



IDIOT BOX
RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

write a blog that appears on the website of a print publication.

These are the ambitious young freelancers who have lucked out and landed a contract gig doing the web-only content that the publishers and top editors don't really read — or even understand — but were told they need for credibility's sake to seem like they know what they're talking about when they discuss "future strategies" and "new media" with Marketing magazine.

The writers who get these gigs are usually cultural omnivores, host to a

variety of enthusiasms, active and latent, who need to be able to say that something is hot when asked questions like, "So, what's hot?" by people who report to the people who sign their paycheck.

In the New York piece, we're told, for instance, that Gossip Girl is "the Greatest Teen Drama Of All Time," that it's "changing the very model of a successful TV show," and that it "offers profound social commentary."

"The show mocks our superficial fantasies while satisfying them," writes Pressler and Rovzar, "allowing us to partake in the over-the-top pleasures of the irresponsible super-rich without anxiety or guilt or moralizing. It's class warfare as blood sport."

Well, since you put it that way.

Of course, if by "changing the model of a successful TV show" you mean getting mediocre ratings,

then the revolution is now, according to a piece in last week's National Post, which quoted Rovzar admitting the show is "overhyped."

"I don't mean that in quality," Rovzar said, "because obviously I love the show and I think it's a great time, but it is overhyped in terms of success. It's not a huge success at all ... It's a certain very Internet-savvy group of people that are really, really, really excited about the show."

It turns out that, according to the Wall Street Journal, if the CW keeps having "hits" like Gossip Girl, it will likely be put out of business by CBS Paramount, its parent company. Seriously, sometimes I think they call it "show business" because "show failure" doesn't sound as zippy.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera. He walked 47 miles of barbed wire and has a cobra snake for a necktie.

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	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Parks	Canadian Rivrs	The Agenda With Steve Palkin	Foyle's War "All Clear" (N)	RX for Survival			Agenda-Palkin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS "Judgement Day" (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)	Shark (N)				News (N)
	215	343	4	OMNI	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)	Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	TBA	NHL Hockey: Eastern Conference Final Game 6 - Penguins at Flyers		(9:02) Hell's Kitchen		CBC News: The National	The Hour	News (N)
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	Reaper "Cancun" (N)	(9:02) Hell's Kitchen		Supernatural (HDTV)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Jeopardy! (N)	American Idol	Dancing With the Stars The winner is revealed.				News (N)
	218	345	11	CH	The Insider (N)	El News	THS Investigates Spring Break	Nightmares Dangerous.		Women's Murder Club		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama en direct	Ingrid Bétancourt	La Société du spectacle (1973)					Génie
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU	News (N)	News (N)			King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Dateline NBC	The DVD Show		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
news	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	NCIS "Judgement Day" (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)	Shark (N)				News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Outrageous	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars The winner is revealed.				News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Wheel-Fortune	Degrassi: Next	Dancing With the Stars	Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle ** (2003, Action)				News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	American Idol	(9:02) Hell's Kitchen		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Family Guy	Nova (HDTV) (N) (DVS)	Frontline (PA) (DVS)		Women of Tibet: A Quiet Rev		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Reaper	Reaper "The Leak"	Reaper "Cancun" (N)		CW11 News at Ten		Family Guy
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil	News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Reaper
	502	390	26	NW	News (N)	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
sports	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	CNN Election Center	CNN Election Center	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company	Fast Money	Cash Flow			The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
	405	417	22	net	CHL Hockey MasterCard Memorial Cup - Gatineau Olympiques vs. Spokane Chiefs (Live)					Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey	Interruption	NBA Basketball Eastern Conference Final Game 1 - Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre
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	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Mon. Warriors	Futurama	Shadow Raider	Falcon Beach	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Road Runner	Scooby-Doo	Futurama	Tripping-Rift	Tripping-Rift	Robot Chicken	Tripping-Rift
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House
	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Mixed Out	Style by Jury	Kim	Style by Jury	Good Naked	Good Naked
family	570	580	29	MM	The O.C. "The Heights"	MuchToTens (N)			Gone Wild	Stars Go. Wild		Punk'd
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	The First 48			The First 48		Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons
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	571	581	36	MMT	mmmtop	Uncovered			Ringo Starr: Off the Record	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Listed
	575	583	38	CMT	Chevy Cross Canada	Beyond Chance			Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis "Lethargia"	Blue Murder			Trailer Park	Kenny-Spenny	CSI: NY "Consequences"	House
	620	523	40	BVO	Bazart	Bravo/Videos	Cry-Baby *** (1990, Musical Comedy)		Side-Dick Dale	Ben Harper-Rehearsal Hall		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SVC	Women on Top	Til Debt-Part	Newlywed	Matchmaker	Superstar Hair Challenge (N)	Plastic-Perfect	Rocker Moms	Newlywed
	622	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Hung Out to Dry"		Digging for the Truth		The Immortal Beaver	NCIS "Hung Out to Dry"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Force	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	MADtv TATU.	Daily Show
cable variety	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Buy Me	Designer Guys	Design Inc.	Colin and Justin on the Estate	Green Force	Outside	Colin & Justin
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Cellular ** (2004, Suspense)	Kim Basinger		Frasier	Frasier	Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	The Boot	The Wash ** (2001, Comedy)	Dr. Dre, George Wallace		College Hill	Iron Ring	Different World
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek: Next Gener.	Hex "Life Goes On"		Stargate SG-1
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	618	524	54	TROP	News Show	News Show	ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld		Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Boy Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Chef School	At the Table		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Allo, Allo!	On the Buses	Quantum Leap (Part 2 of 2)	Jozi-H "Fathers"		Mysterious
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	This Is... Jon Bon Jovi	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Night Grdn	Wiggle-Learn	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie
cable variety	115	711	101	TVA	Les Anges de la réno	Caméra café	Histoires-filles		La Grande Évasion (HDTV)	Le TVA 22 heures (N) (SC)		Sûcré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI	Dominique Poirier en direct	Grands reportages (SC)			Le Téléjournal (SC)	Le Club des ex	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing	Killer Next Door			Psychic Detect	Exc. Evidence		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	(6:15) Young Triffie (2006, Comedy)		In Treatment		Spider-Man 3 ** (2007, Action)	Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst.		
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) Jacob Two Two Meets the Hooded Fang (1999)				Running Scared *** (1986, Comedy-Drama)			(10:50) Pin

critics' corner

Dancing With the Stars
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Shark
If it's the season finale, it must be time for Wayne Callison (Billy Campbell) to make a return appearance. At the end of last season, Stark (James Woods) had another chance to put Callison, a serial killer whom he'd earlier failed to convict, away for good. Now Wayne's escaped from prison with revenge on his mind and Stark's daughter, Julie (Danielle Panabaker), in his sights. Uh-oh. 10 PM on GTV, CBS



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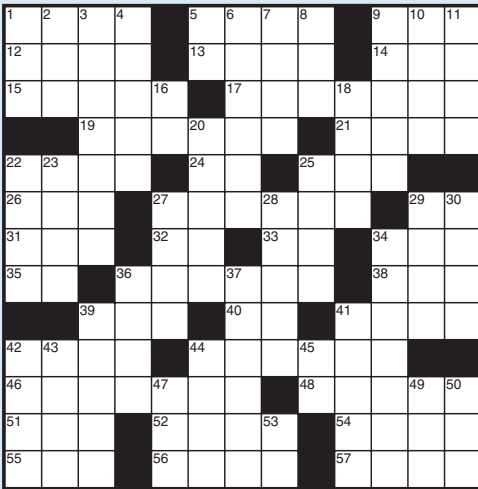
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- 10 "Free Willy" whale
- 11 Howls at the moon
- 16 Um's cousin
- 18 Excited
- 20 Coffee emanation
- 22 Jean Auel heroine
- 23 Fraud
- 25 Kids
- 27 Forest browsers
- 28 Wedding-cake layers
- 29 Bison feature
- 30 Rock-concert need
- 34 Tousing
- 36 Motives
- 37 Barbarian
- 39 Aphorism
- 41 Condor nest
- 42 In that case (2 wds.)
- 43 At hand
- 44 Cartoon shrieks
- 45 Western st.
- 47 Likewise
- 49 Environmental prefix
- 50 Trial VIPs
- 53 Attention getter

across»

- 1 Lasso
- 5 Culture medium
- 9 Tar
- 12 Polite cough
- 13 About 2.2 lbs.
- 14 Epoch
- 15 Freak out (2 wds.)
- 17 Motel sign
- 19 Pull a muscle
- 21 Pate de foie —
- 22 Crow's-nest cry
- 24 TLC provider
- 25 Dactyl
- 26 Not me
- 27 Collar attachment (2 wds.)
- 29 Laugh syllable
- 31 Cozy seat
- 32 Guru's mantra
- 33 Check-cashing need
- 34 Shaggy flower
- 35 Hewing tool
- 36 Uses a loom
- 38 Referee
- 39 Happy sighs
- 40 Ozarks st.
- 41 Vipers
- 42 A famous 500
- 44 Follows upon
- 46 Made merry
- 48 Attempted
- 51 Give in the middle
- 52 Hunky-dory
- 54 Machu Picchu builder
- 55 Mineral deposit
- 56 Scandinavian city
- 57 "I" problems

previous answer



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What do you do?



	4	7	2		5			6
		3	5					8
1				9				
4	7					8		
		2	6				4	3
				7				8
					9			4
2						5	7	
7			4		2	1	6	

instructions»

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time»

Under 13 minutes
13-17 minutes
17-21
21-25
More than 25

Genius
Scholar
Smart
Pretty good
Keep practising

previous answer

8	4	6	2	1	3	5	7	9
3	5	9	8	7	6	2	1	4
7	2	1	9	5	4	8	6	3
2	6	3	5	4	1	9	8	7
5	9	8	7	6	2	3	4	1
1	7	4	3	8	9	6	2	5
9	3	7	4	2	8	1	5	6
4	1	2	6	3	5	7	9	8
6	8	5	1	9	7	4	3	2

HOROSCOPE



ARIES | March 21-April 20

Being too sociable will cause delays. Nostalgia will force you to remember past loves. Insecurity will be worked with to create willpower.



TAURUS | April 21-May 21

People understand what you're going through. Look for a cloud's silver lining. An unusual reaction cannot be explained.



GEMINI | May 22-June 21

Your social life can get more exciting. Have some happy times when someone invites you out. Trust your own common sense.



CANCER | June 22-July 22

It's time to withstand an emotional shift. Try to take over a complicated matter. Difficulties will arise through a lack of trust.



LEO | July 23-Aug. 23

Don't sacrifice your ethics for material gain. People are gossiping about a recent ordeal. Anxiety attacks need more astute care.



VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Take a break with your quiet friends. Expect bad news to be followed by good. Listen to your inner feelings when people act strangely.



LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23

Don't lose faith in a loyal person. Interesting news will convey a solution to a problem. Don't reveal too much about your past.



SCORPIO | Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Minimize the impact of a woman's sarcasm. You'll get in the way of progress. A foolish escapade creates laughter.



SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Someone is released from an obsession. You'll get to take your turn at being funny. Send a note to express your concern.



CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20

A romance with a rude female will be infuriating. You will hesitate before implementing plans. Astonish others with cunning moves.



AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18

You're magnetic because your confidence has grown. Bring out your rowdiness. Someone takes advantage of a good chance.



PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

A gullible person will believe a lie. Do not let anything get the better of you. Don't let on if you get bored with a storyteller. AVATAR VENUS

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Toronto weather

Afternoon



Variable.
16°

Tonight



Showers.
5°

Wednesday



Showers.
14° / 7°

Thursday



Partly cloudy.
16° / 8°

Friday



Partly cloudy.
18° / 10°



Temperature

Normals
High: 19.3°
Low: 7.7°

Records
High: 32.2°/1962
Low: -0.1°/2002

Sunrise: 5:48 a.m.
Sunset: 8:42 p.m.
Moonset: 5:34 a.m.
Moonrise: 9:52 p.m.

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celebritybuzz



Pete, Ashlee marry

People magazine reports Ashlee Simpson got her fairy-tale wedding to Pete Wentz on

Saturday complete with an Alice In Wonderland themed reception.

People says Simpson, 23, and Fall Out Boy bassist Pete Wentz, 28, exchanged vows in front of 150 people at her parent's home in Encino, a Los Angeles area bedroom community in the San Fernando Valley.

According to the magazine, Joe Simpson, her father, performed the non-denomination ceremony and sister Jessica was the maid of honour.

The bride wore a

wedding dress by Monique Lhuillier and a diamond necklace and earrings by Neil Lane, and People says the reception featured a wedding cake with a top hat, tea pot, stop watch and a pot of flowers on top.

Simpson and Wentz began dating in fall 2006 and announced their engagement April 9.

Simpson, a singer, songwriter and actress, is the younger sister of pop star Jessica Simpson.

A flurry of arrangements on Saturday afternoon just outside the guarded gates of the Simpson's property indicated that the pop singer's wedding to Wentz was imminent.

White shuttle vans

with tinted windows were streaming through the gates, as were several delivery vehicles, including some marked as belonging to celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck.

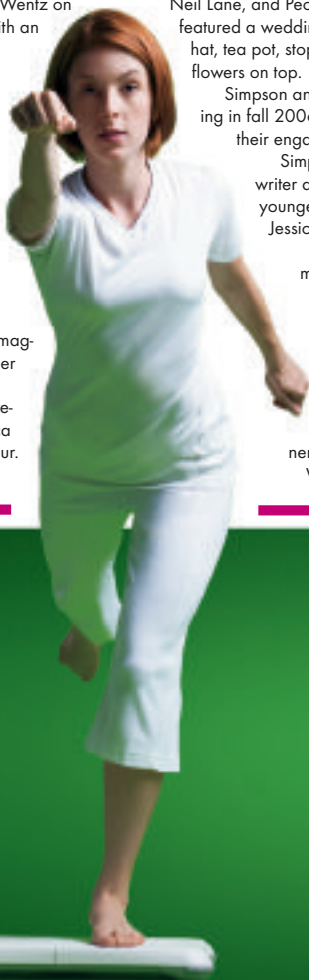
Drivers of a few expensive cars who arrived at the guard tower were told to park elsewhere and take a shuttle. One was a well-dressed woman who arrived in an Audi packed with red boxes.

And of course, the paparazzi had been gathering before 3 p.m., lingering outside the property.

Aerial photos posted online Friday on several celebrity websites purportedly showed an outcropping of large white party tents.

Ashlee Simpson's latest album, Bittersweet World, was released last month. It peaked at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 in its first week, and tracks have logged more than 19 million plays on her MySpace page.

The Associated Press



Miley defends song

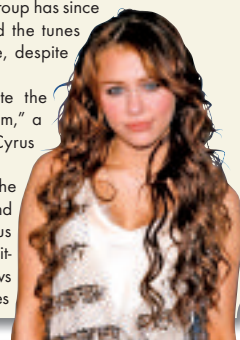
Singer/actress Miley Cyrus has hit back at accusations she ripped off a Los Angeles band's song because she doesn't write any of her own music, imdb.com reports.

Los Angeles band Lustra fired claims that Cyrus' song Rockstar is a carbon copy of their Scotty Doesn't Know tune.

Fans alerted the band — whose track appeared on the soundtrack to the 2004 movie Eurotrip — to Cyrus' song-similarities. The group has since reportedly determined the tunes are virtually the same, despite mismatching lyrics.

"She doesn't write the songs — she sings them," a spokesperson for Cyrus says.

According to The New York Post, the band "is considering various options to rectify this situation." Metro News Services



Brooke adopts girl

Grey's Anatomy actress Brooke Smith has adopted a baby girl from Ethiopia, People.com reports.

It is the second daughter for Smith, 40, who has a five-year-old daughter, Fanny, with her cinematographer husband Stephen Lubensky.

Smith, who is best known for her role in Silence Of The Lambs and now plays Dr. Erica Hahn on Grey's Anatomy, told People magazine in October that she and her husband were considering adopting.

"You know, why not?" Smith said, adding that she and Lubensky have travelled to Africa several times, and filmed a documentary on conservationists in Zimbabwe together.

"We still might end up there some time," she said.

Metro News Services



Getty Images photos

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Kate, Lance step out

Actress Kate Hudson is dating Lance Armstrong, reports say.

Hudson, who recently broke up with actor Owen Wilson, spent a romantic weekend with the seven-time Tour de France cycling champion at his home in Austin, Tex.

"Kate and Lance have been dating for a couple of weeks. She and Lance are both physical, passionate people — she's never been happier," said a source close to the couple.

The pair were spotted dining together in Austin on Friday night, and enjoyed a meal with Armstrong's three children at a different eatery on Saturday.

"They looked like they were having fun," a restaurant insider said.

Hudson first got to know Armstrong through Wilson, who is close friends with the sportsman.

Armstrong split from country singer fiancée Sheryl Crow in 2007, after a three-year relationship.

Metro News Services



Bosworth on thinness

Kate Bosworth is placing the blame for her once painfully bony figure on her breakup with Orlando Bloom, MSN Entertainment reports.

In an interview with Harper's Bazaar (via Australia's Daily Telegraph), she says the implosion of their romance after four years together left her so stressed out she had no appetite, resulting in her thin form and prompting headlines questioning her health.

"It was my first very difficult breakup with someone I loved deeply and no matter how much I ate, it didn't matter," says the actress, who began dating model James Rousseau not long after she and Bloom parted ways.

"I hold all my emotions in the pit of my stomach, so it became difficult to eat. I remember going to a nutritionist and asking, 'Do I have a parasite?' " Bosworth says.

Metro News Services



Diva Scarlett misses festival?

Scarlett Johansson never made it to the Cannes Film Festival premiere of her new movie on Saturday thanks to her excessive demands, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reports.

The Vicky Cristina Barcelona star reportedly insisted on having her own \$7,800 US-a-day make-up artist and a room at a hotel 48 kilometres outside of Cannes, while director Woody Allen and co-stars Penelope Cruz and Rebecca Hall stayed in the city in order to be close to the premiere, the New York Daily News reports.

The movie's studio reportedly balked at the demands and left Johansson, 23, behind in New York.

"Penelope and Rebecca were going to be working very hard and it wasn't acceptable that Scarlett would be having to come in from that distance every day, most likely turning up late and it would have thrown schedules into a lot of confusion," an executive connected with the film said.

The executive also said Allen, who has directed Johansson in three films, was "a little upset that she wasn't being a team player."

The film received a 10-minute standing ovation after the screening.

Metro News Services



Getty Images photos

Colin sparks health fears

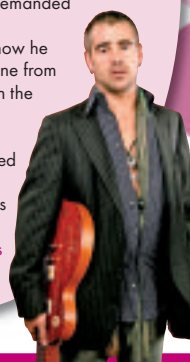
Actor Colin Farrell has ignited fears for his health after he appeared at a press conference looking gaunt, but he insists he's merely shedding weight for a film role, imdb.com reports.

Farrell, 31, shocked reporters when he showed up to promote his upcoming movie Triage — in which he plays a war reporter in 1990s Bosnia — during a trip to Spain.

"I lost weight because my role demanded it. It was all very healthy," he said.

Farrell did not elaborate as to how he lost the weight, instead quoting a line from the Scott Anderson novel on which the movie is based: "Once his beard was gone, he saw that his face had become drawn. He pressed at the hollows beneath his eyes, the pronounced nubs of his cheek bones."

Metro News Services



Jessica talks motherhood

Despite the fatigue pregnant Jessica Alba feels, she welcomes the fact her expectant state has calmed her down, People.com reports.

"At the end of the day I am so tired I can't function or speak and my eyes glaze over," Alba, 27, tells Fit Pregnancy magazine for its June/July issue, "but this pregnancy has seriously mellowed me out, which is nice. I've been going, going, going for so long, it feels nice not to take things so seriously."

And though she finds herself craving citrus, when it comes to what she'll allow as a mother, she says: "I don't want to be my child's best friend; I want to be a mom. But I do want my child to come to me when they have problems and need to talk, so it's going to be about treading that line."

Metro News Services



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